

# Computational microscopy of membrane proteins: methods and tools

*Ahmad Reza Mehdipour*

Center for Molecular Modeling

Ghent University

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# Outline

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- Theoretical Biophysics
- Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations
- Applications of MD simulations in membrane biology
  - Protein-lipid interaction: lipid flippase
- Advanced methods
- Future directions

# Theoretical Biophysics

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- Microscopic & macroscopic relationships

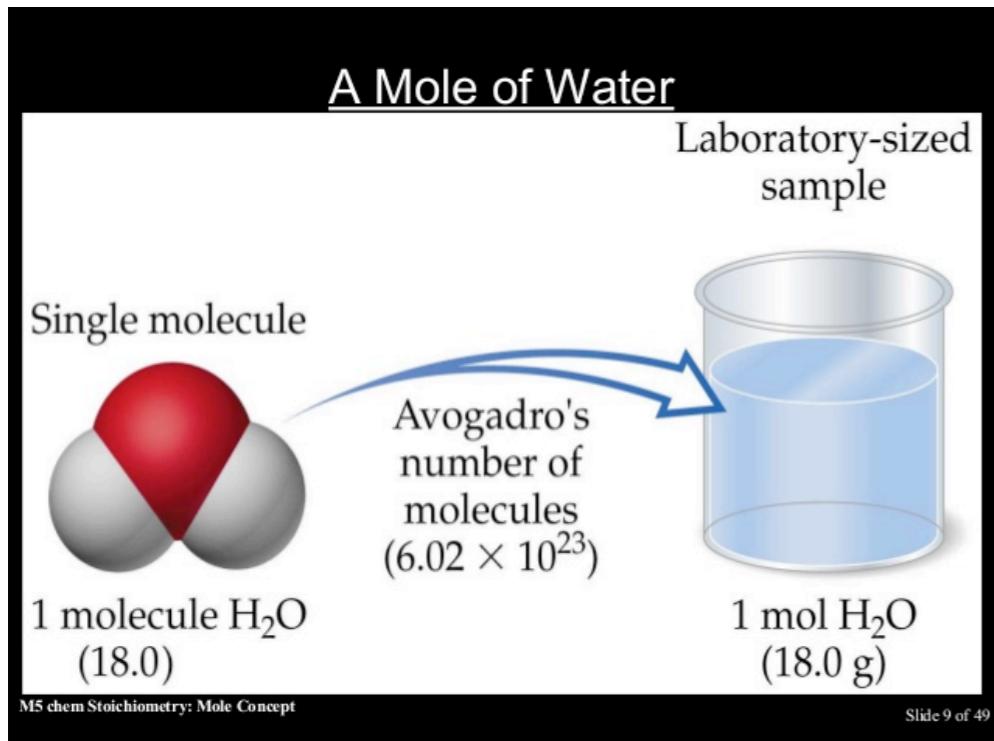
Microscopic World

Macroscopic World

# Theoretical Biophysics

## • S • Microscopic & macroscopic relationships

### Microscopic World

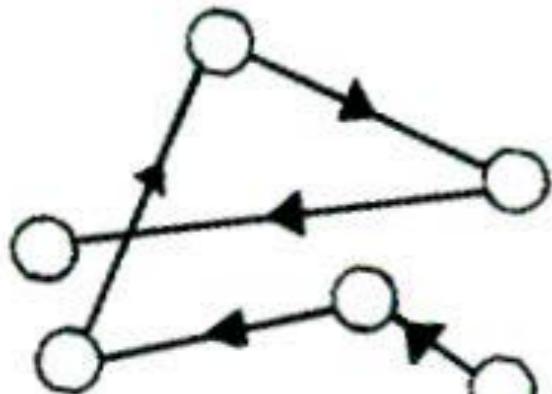


### Macroscopic World

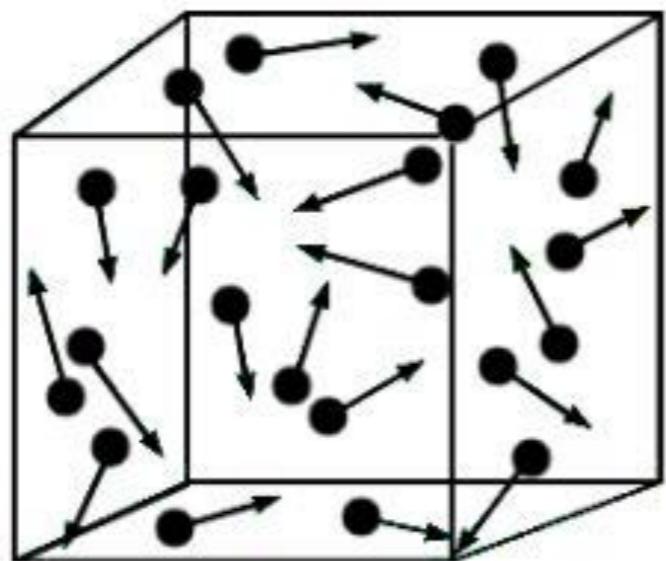
# Theoretical Biophysics

- Microscopic & macroscopic relationships

Microscopic World



Macroscopic World

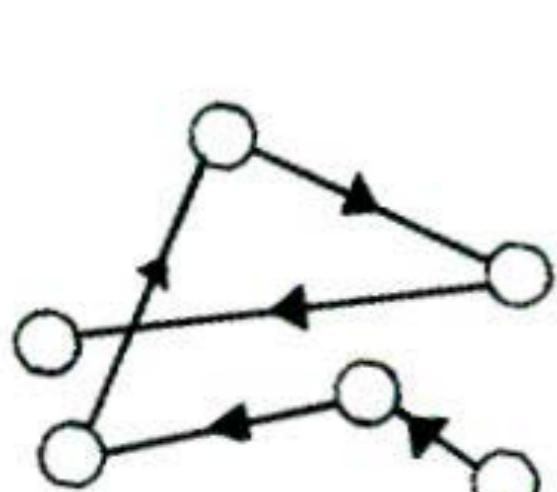


Stochastic Process

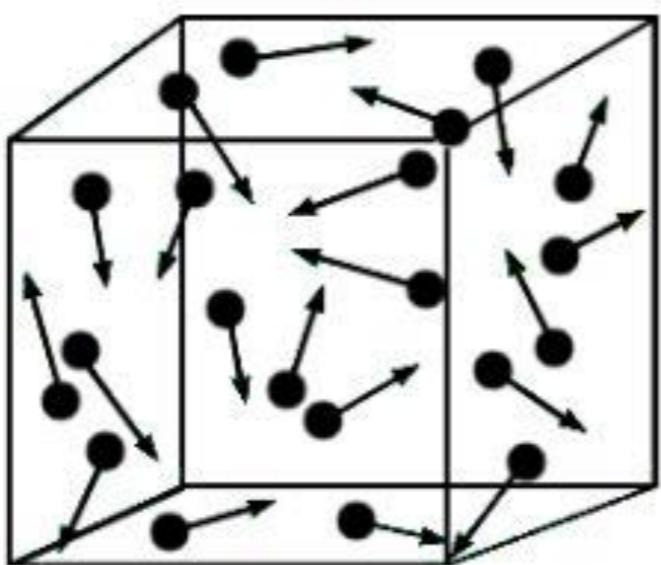
# Theoretical Biophysics

- Microscopic & macroscopic relationships

Microscopic World



Stochastic Process



Macroscopic World



Pressure

Volume

# Theoretical Biophysics

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Microscopic World            Macroscopic World

# Theoretical Biophysics

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Microscopic World



Macroscopic World

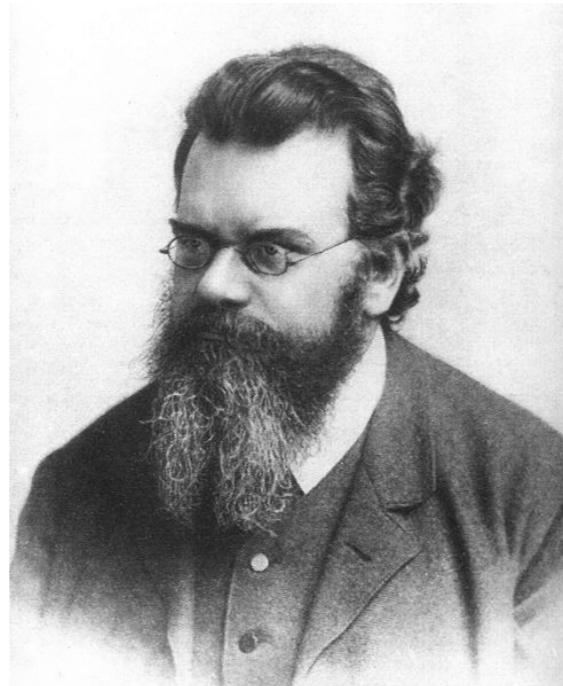
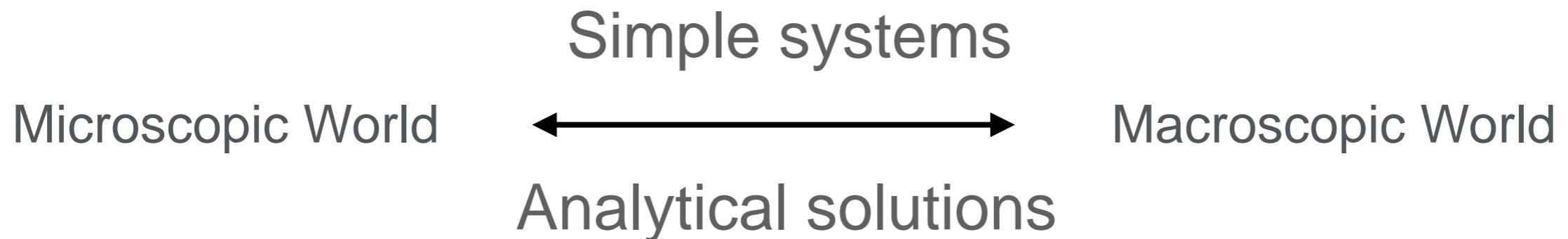


Ludwig Boltzmann

Founder of statistical mechanic/physics

# Theoretical Biophysics

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Ludwig Boltzmann

Founder of statistical mechanic/physics

# Theoretical Biophysics

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Microscopic World            Macroscopic World

# Theoretical Biophysics

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But for complex systems???

Microscopic World



Macroscopic World

# Theoretical Biophysics

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But for complex systems???

Microscopic World



Macroscopic World

Numerical solutions

# Theoretical Biophysics

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But for complex systems???

Microscopic World



Macroscopic World

Numerical solutions



Ludwig Boltzmann

Founder of Statistical Physics

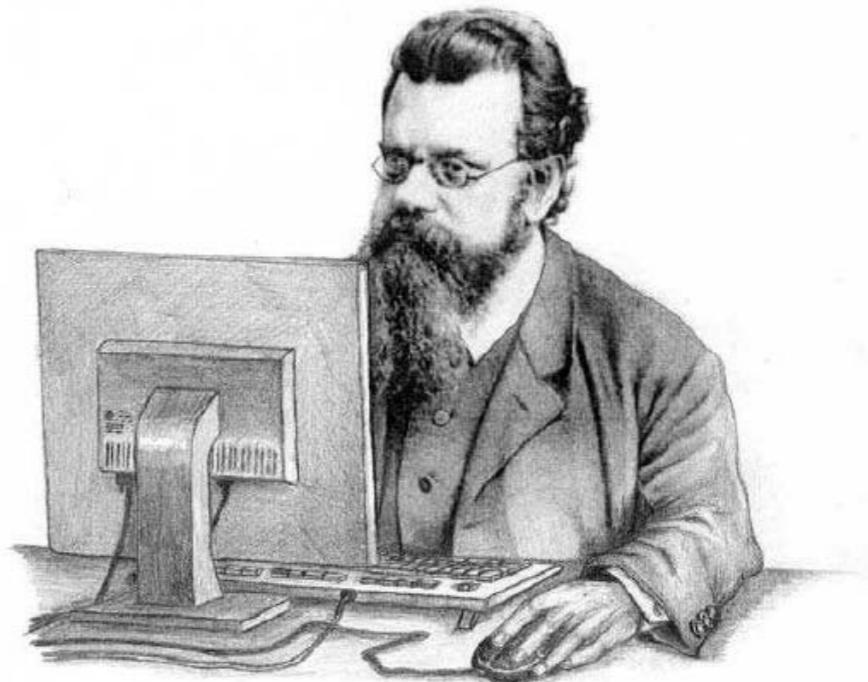


Figure 1. Boltzmann at work (Drawing by Bernhard Reischl, University of Vienna).

Ludwig Boltzmann, in 21<sup>st</sup> centry

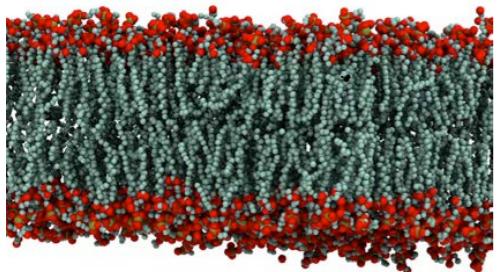
# Methods overview

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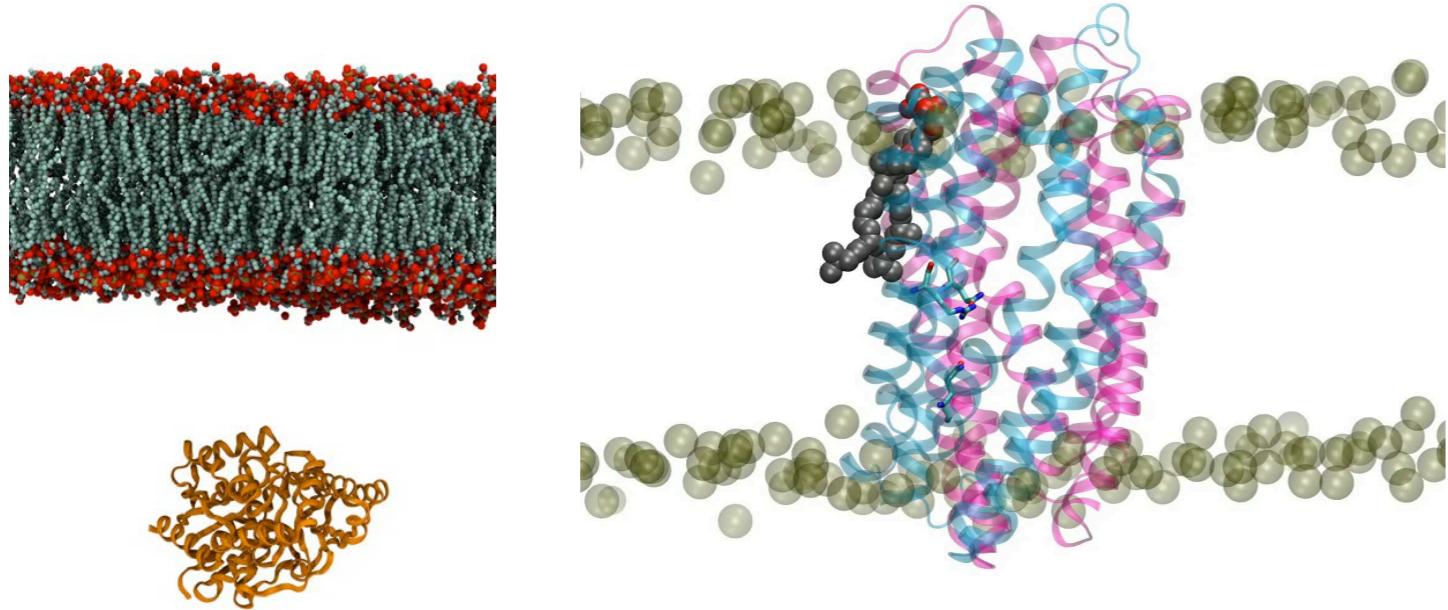
## Molecular dynamics simulation



# Methods overview

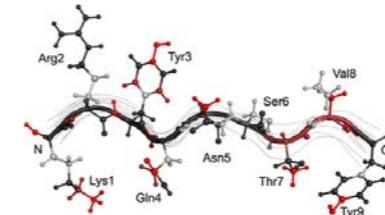
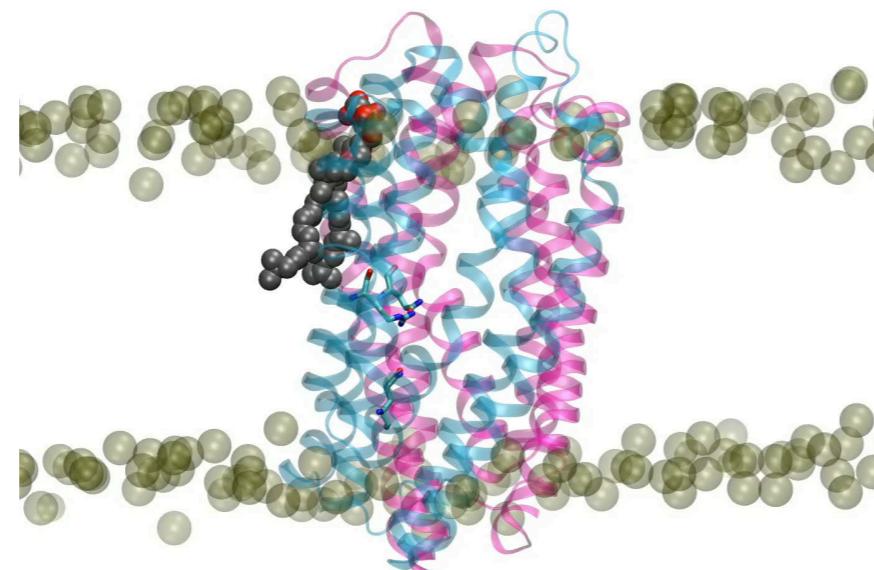
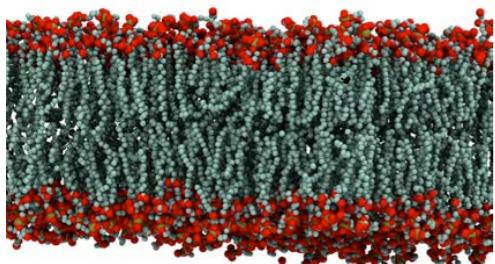
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## Molecular dynamics simulation

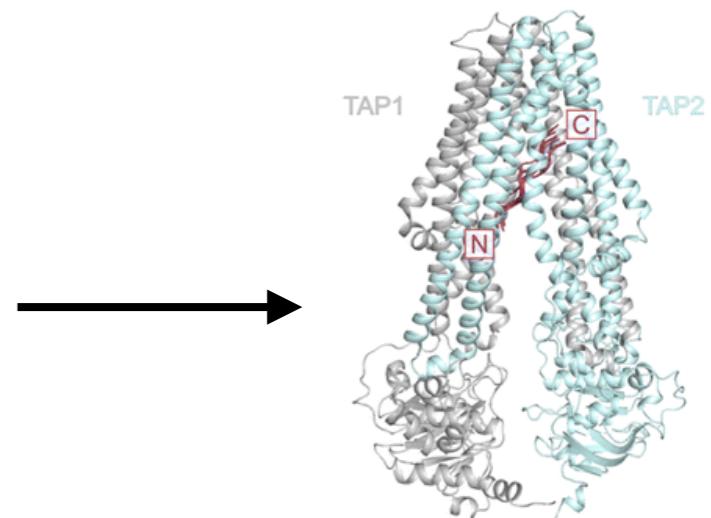


# Methods overview

## Molecular dynamics simulation

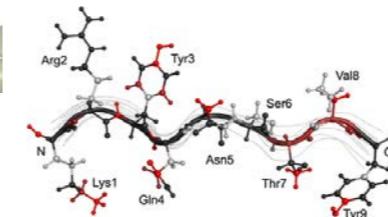
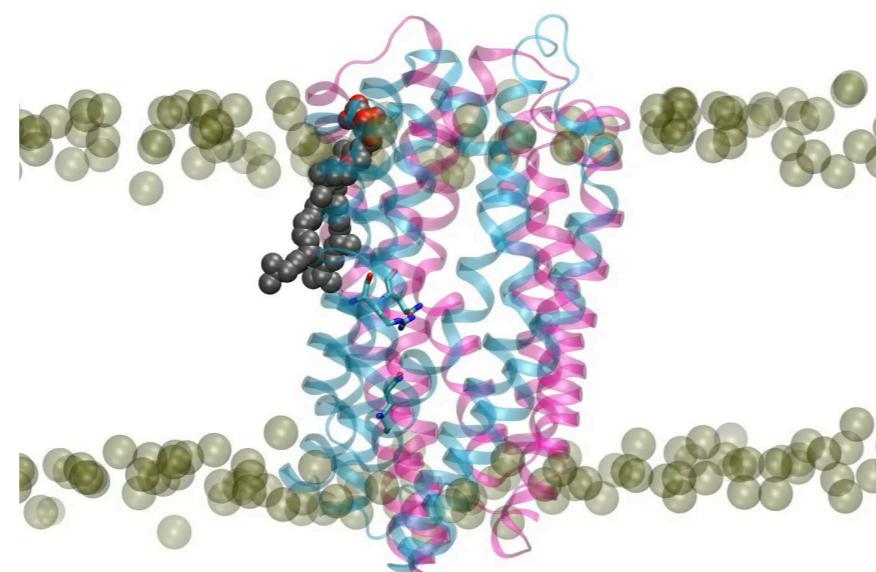
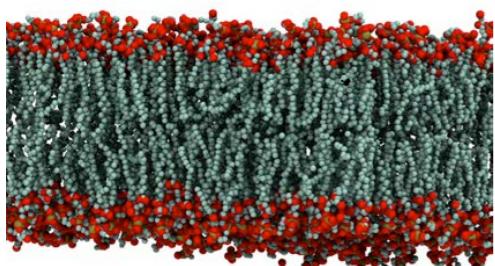


## Molecular docking

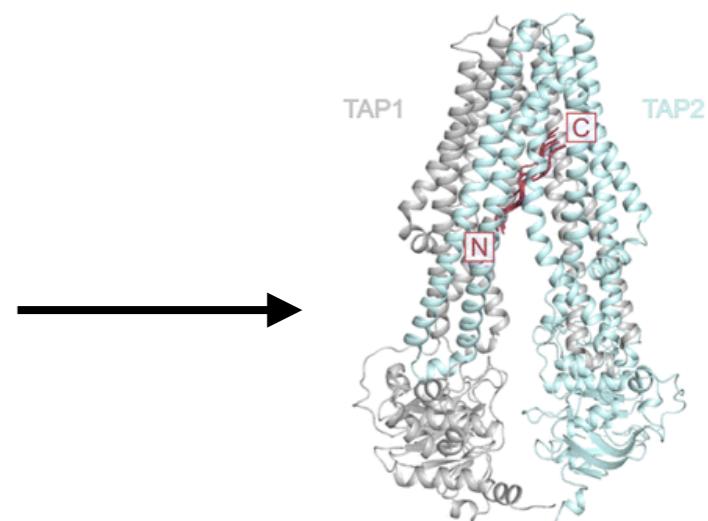


# Methods overview

## Molecular dynamics simulation



## Molecular docking



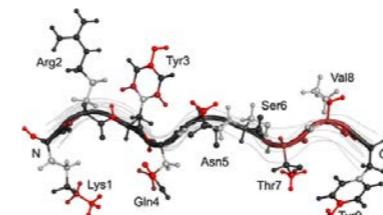
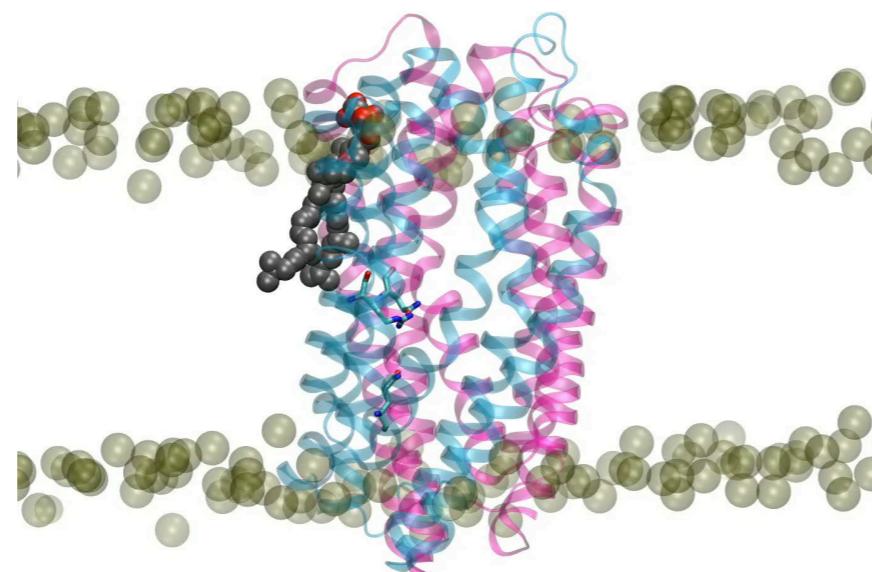
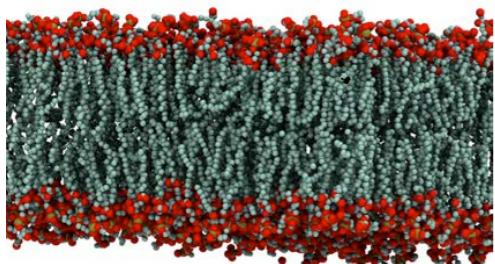
## Integrative modeling



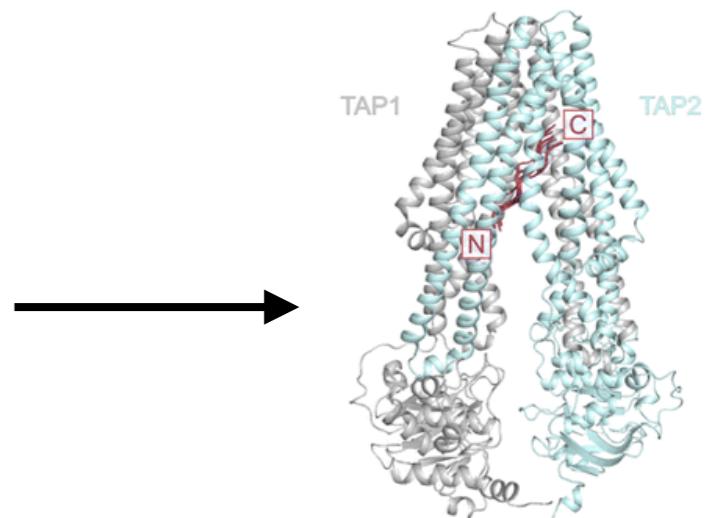
Ahmad Reza Mehdipour

# Methods overview

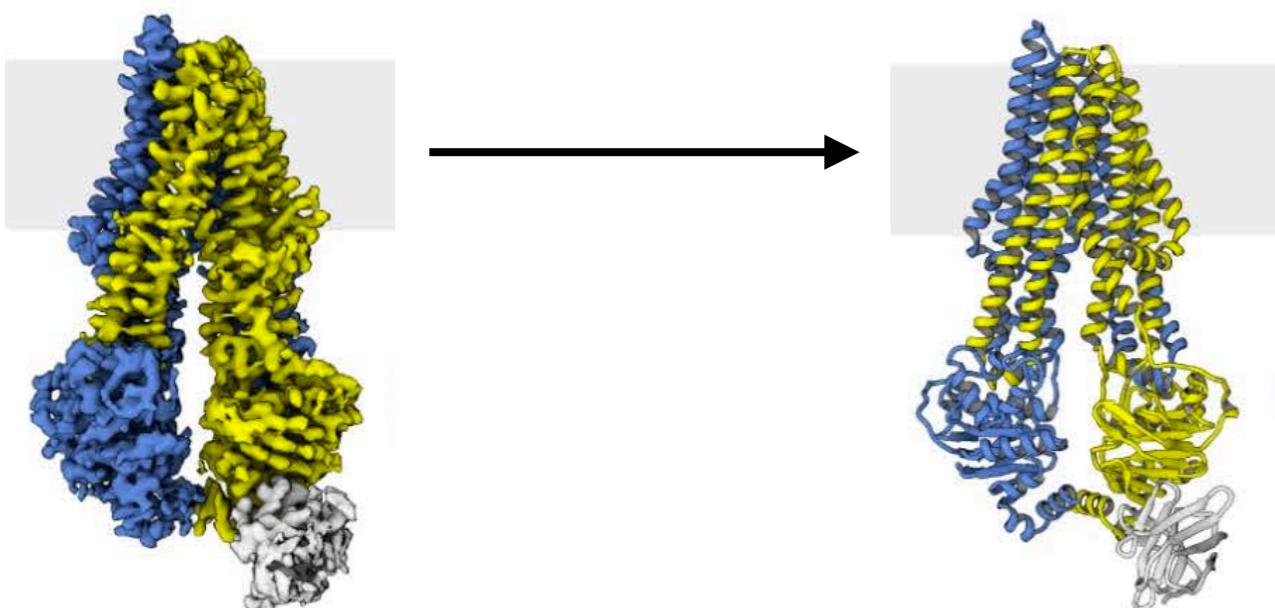
## Molecular dynamics simulation



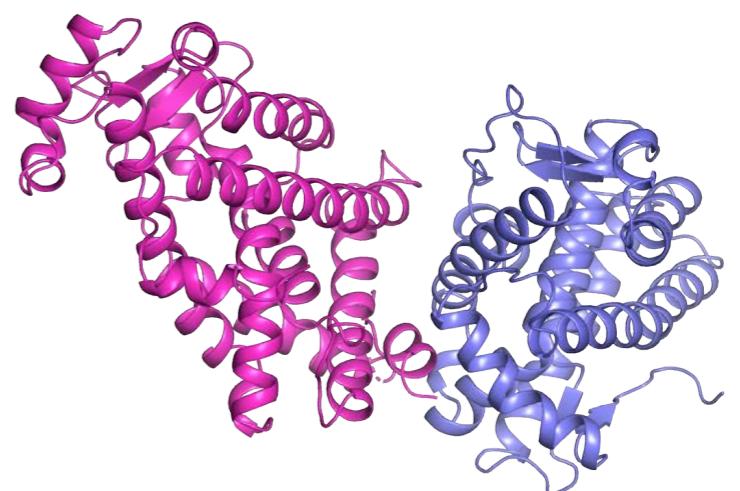
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## Integrative modeling

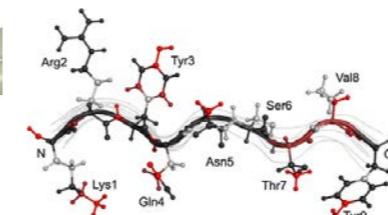
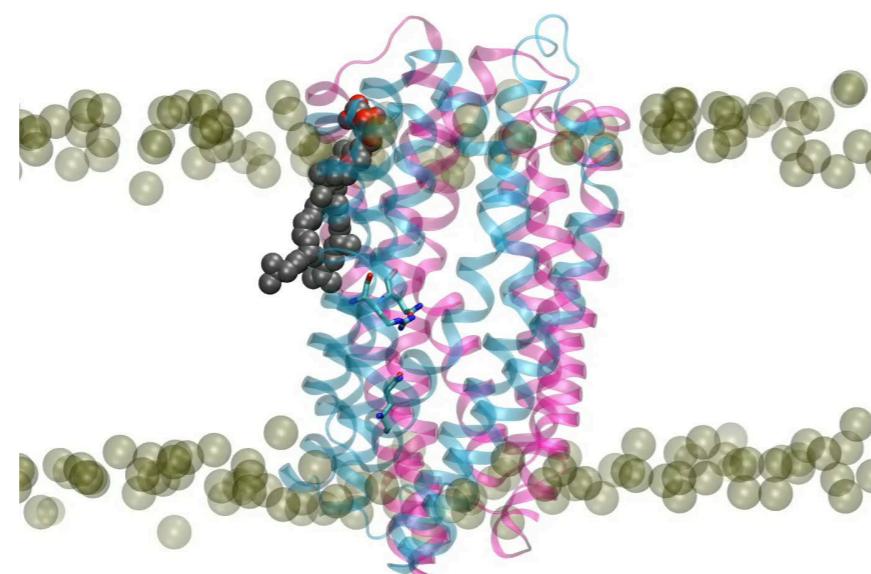
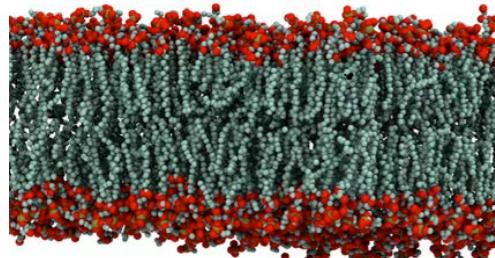


## Structural bioinformatics

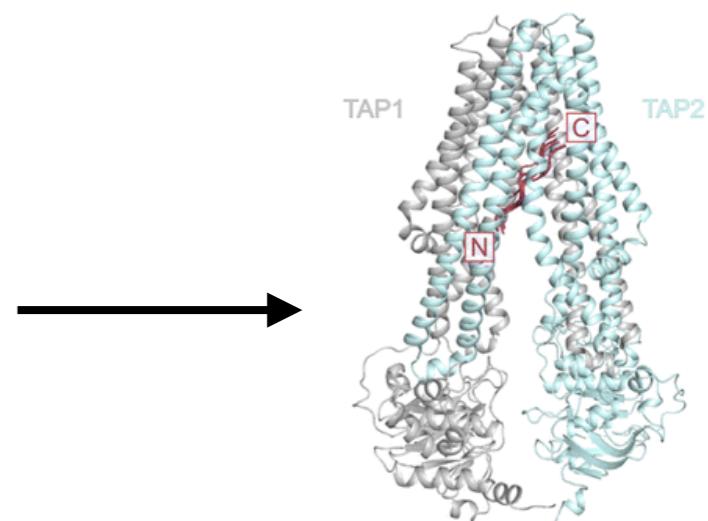


# Methods overview

## Molecular dynamics simulation



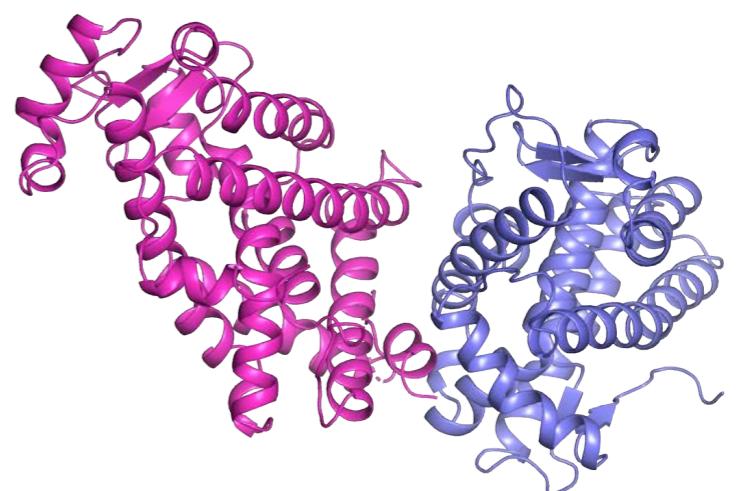
## Molecular docking



## Integrative modeling

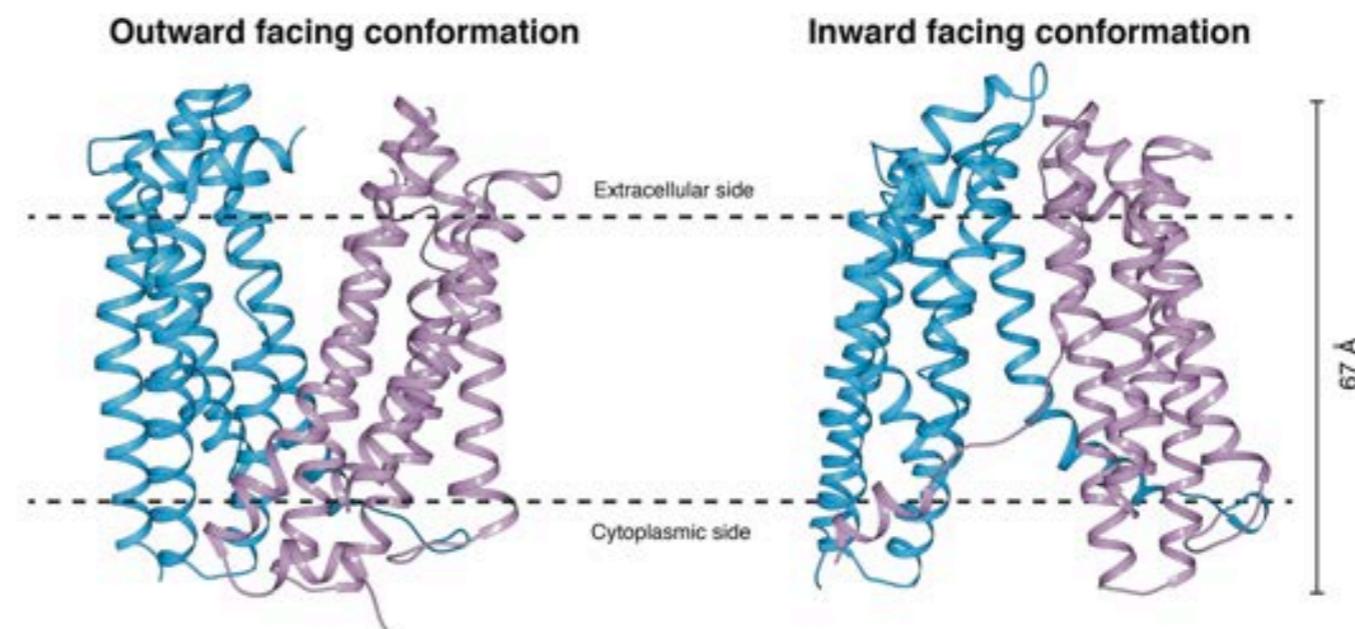


## Structural bioinformatics



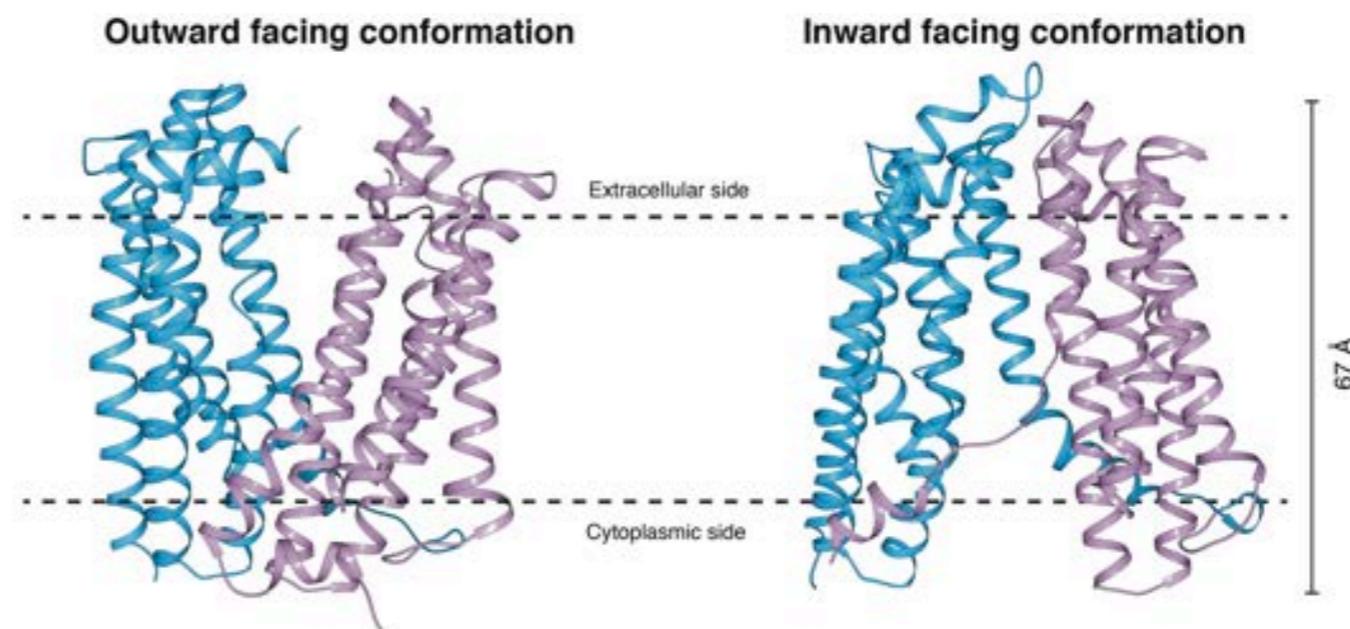
# Structures are snapshots

Structural information  
Static

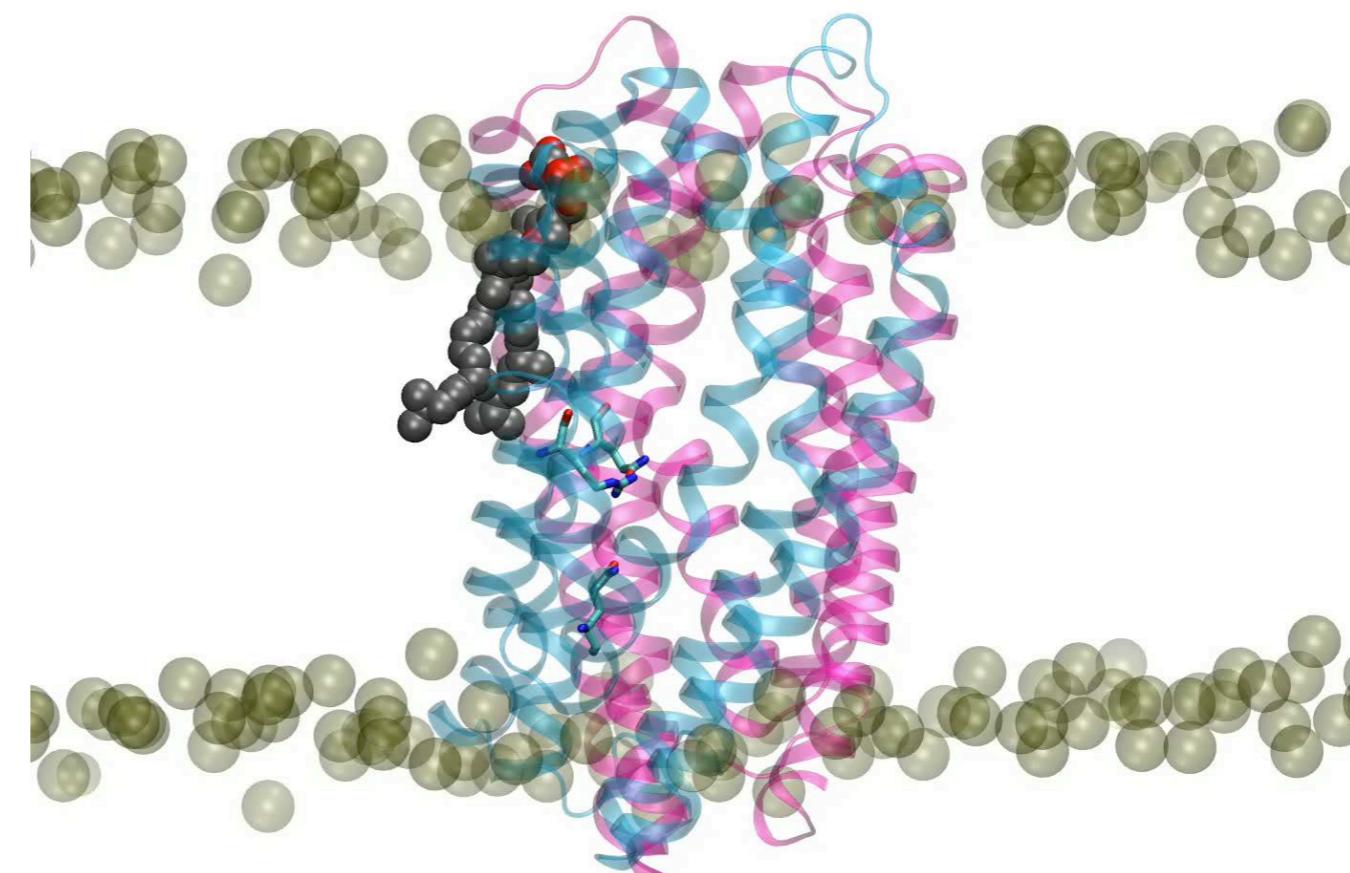


# Structures are snapshots

Structural information  
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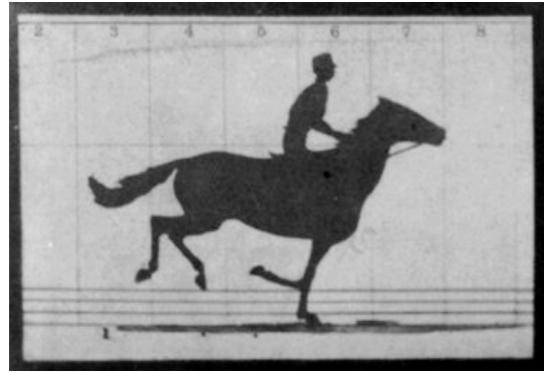


Structural information  
Dynamic



# Dynamics as time-resolved phenomenon

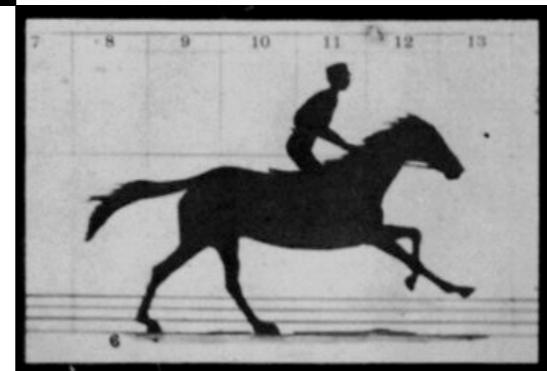
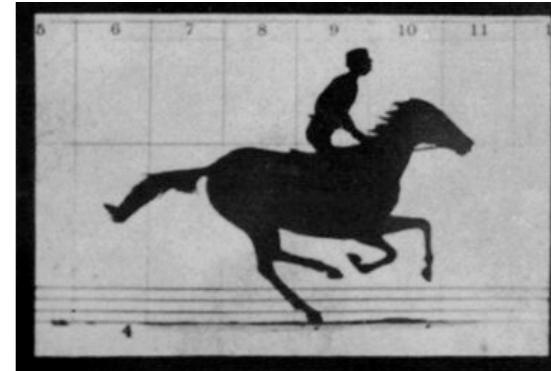
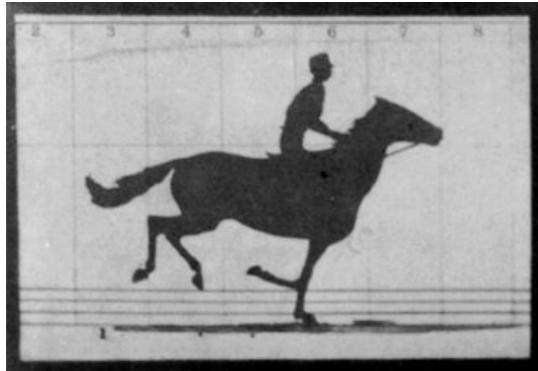
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# Dynamics as time-resolved phenomenon

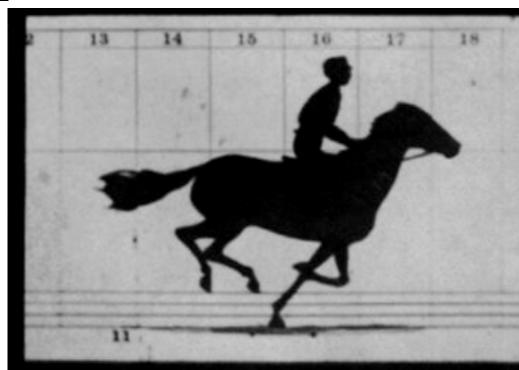
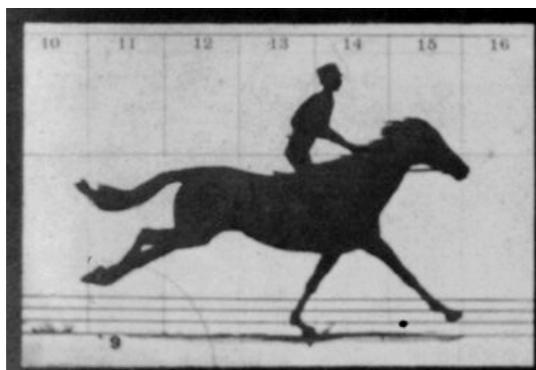
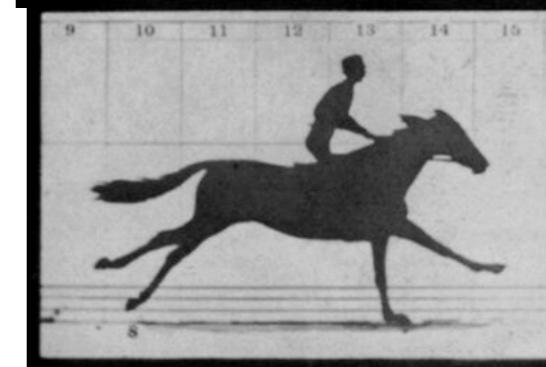
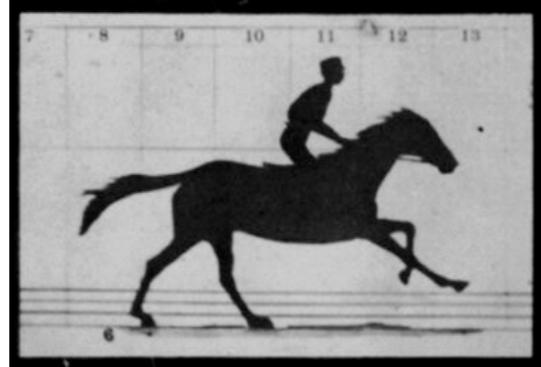
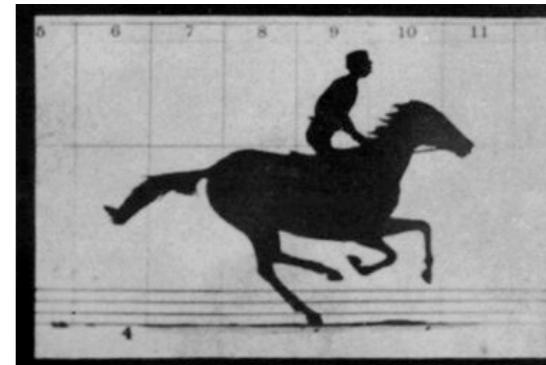
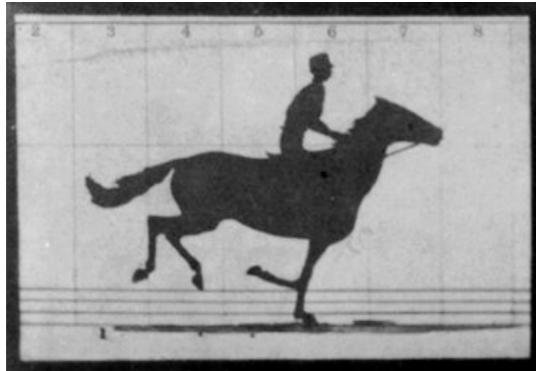
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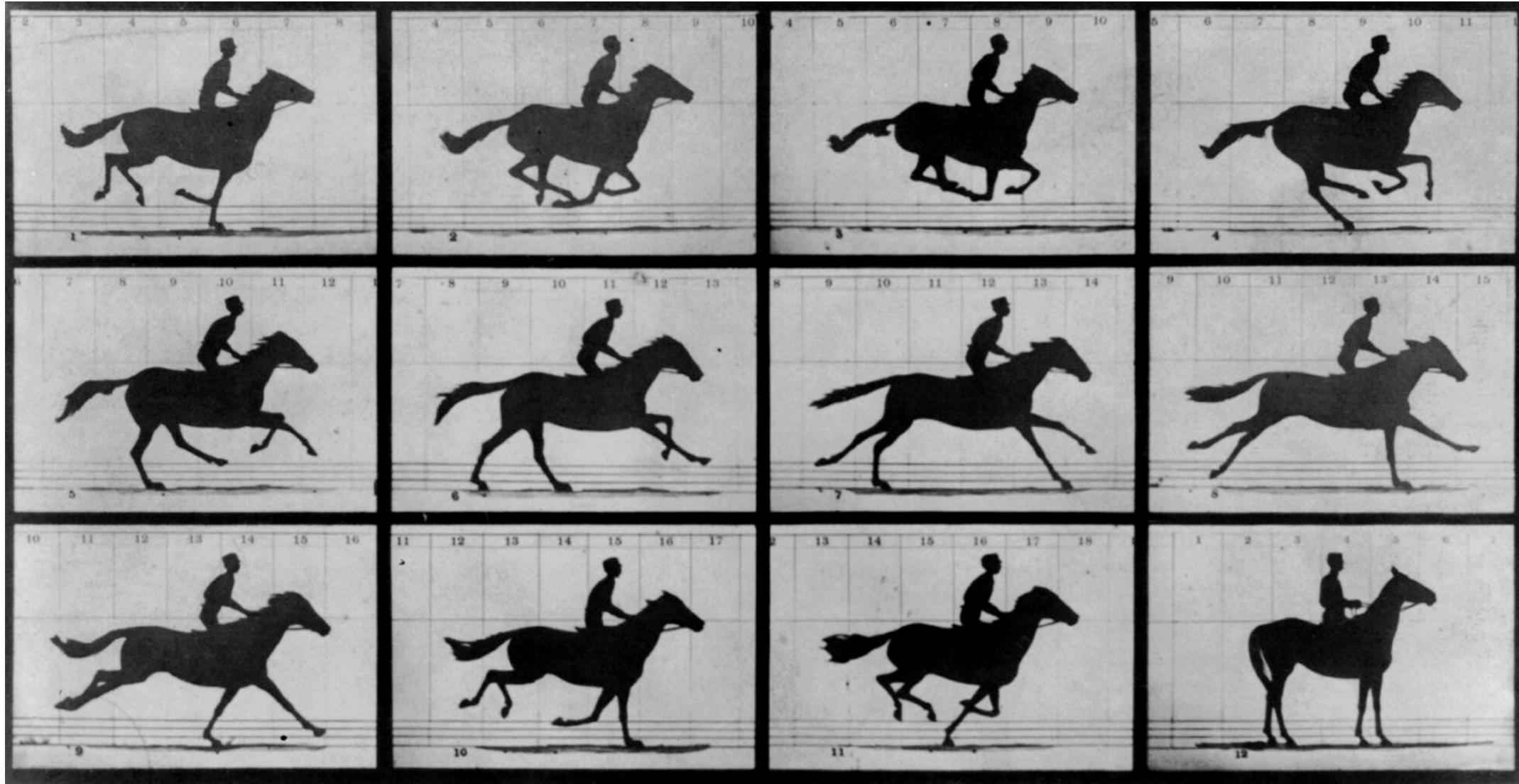
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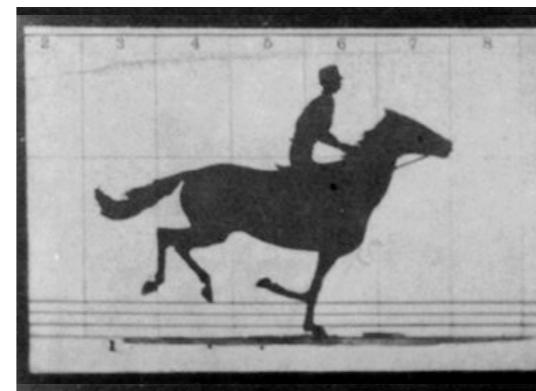
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# Dynamics as time-resolved phenomenon

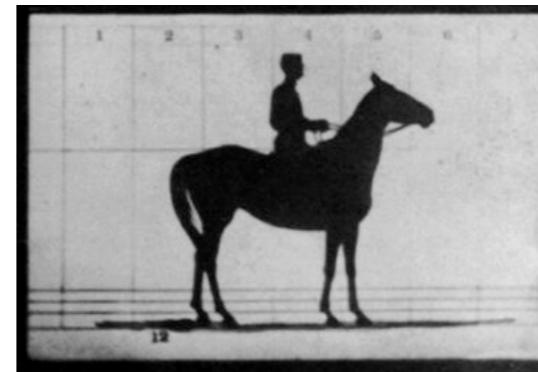
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# Dynamics as time-resolved phenomenon

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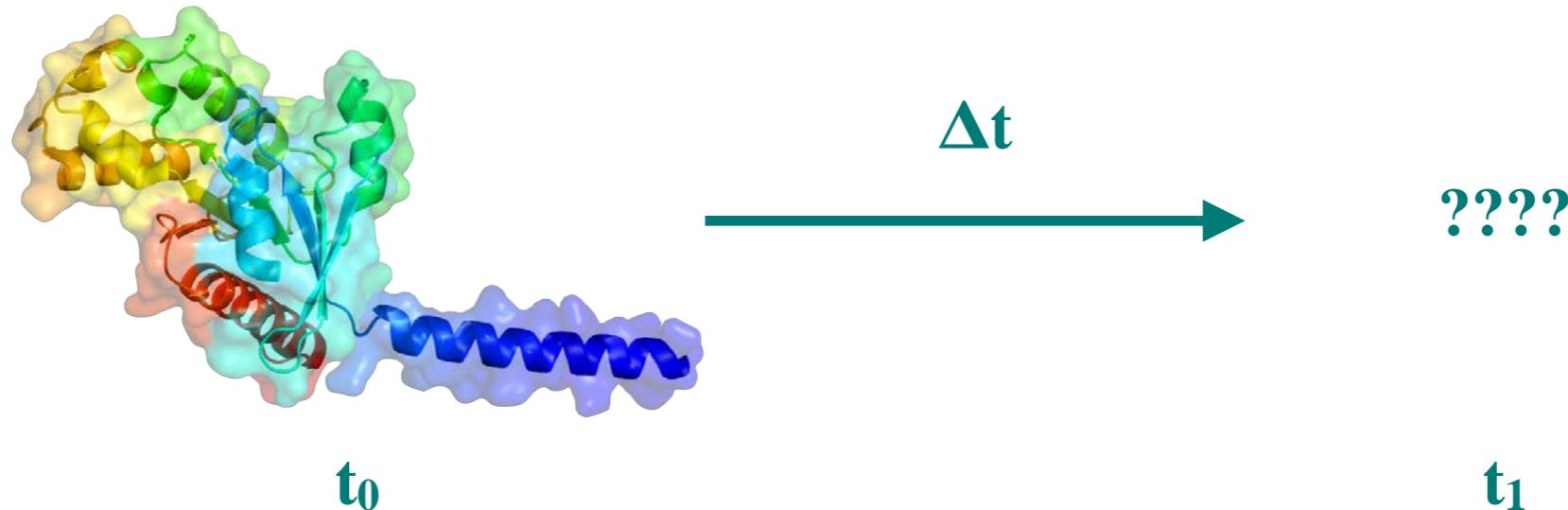


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# Principles of molecular dynamics simulations

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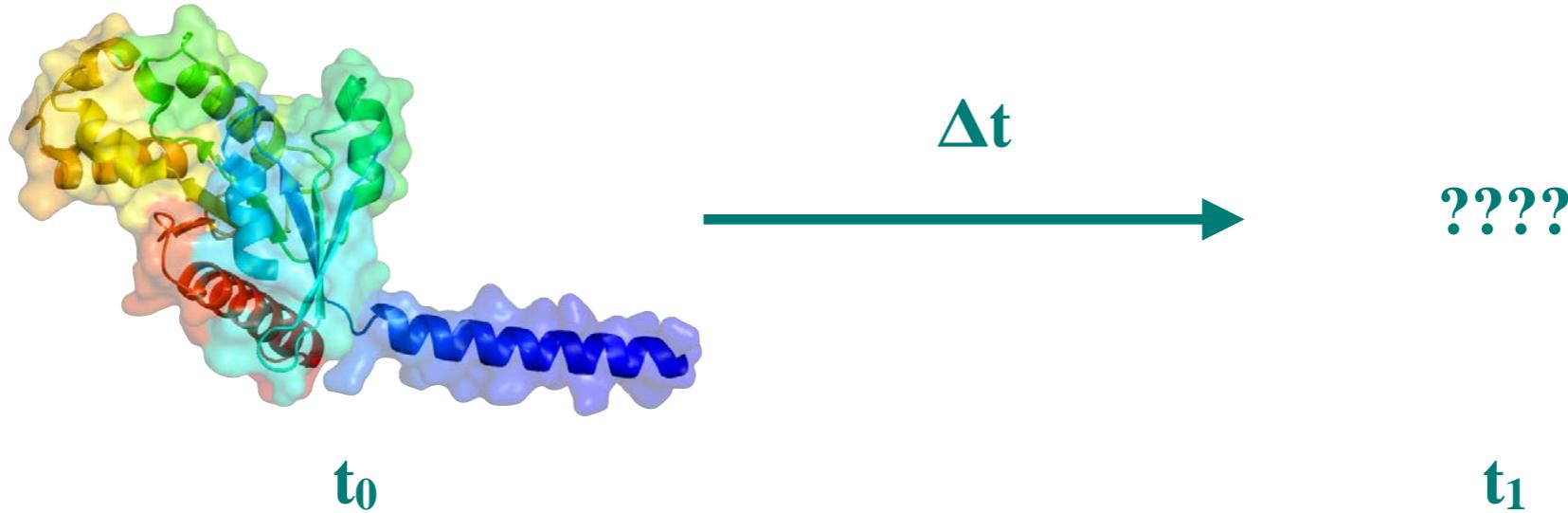
How can we capture the dynamics of biomolecules?



# Newton to rescue

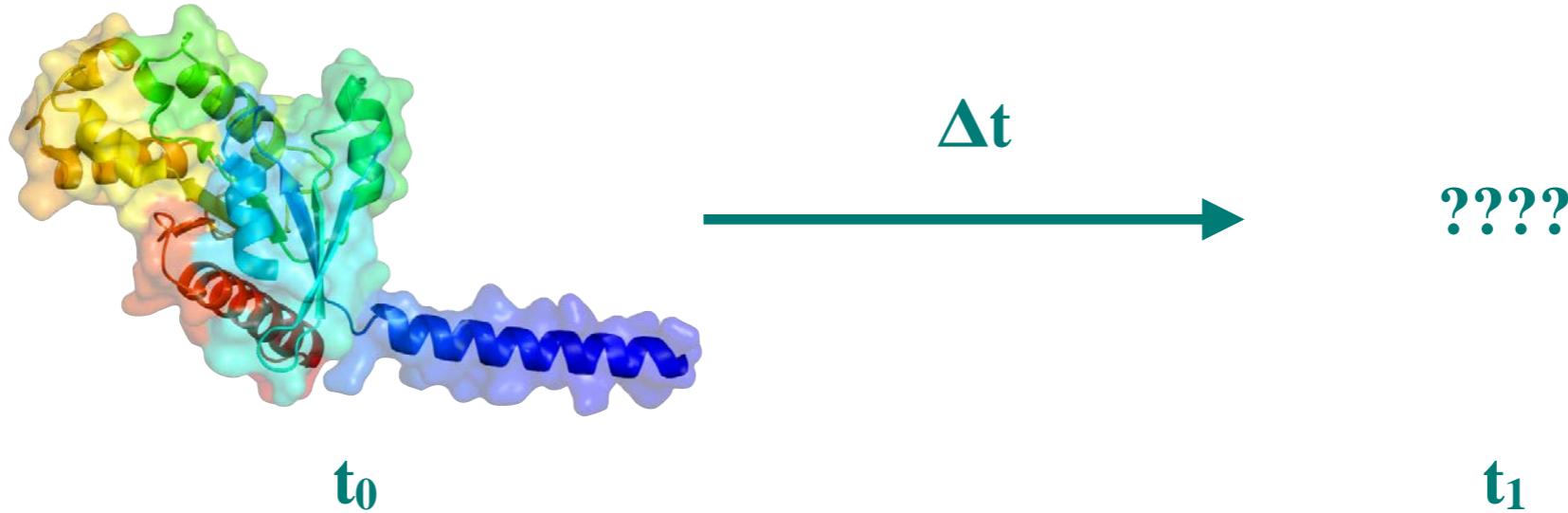
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How can we capture the dynamics of biomolecules?



# Newton to rescue

How can we capture the dynamics of biomolecules?



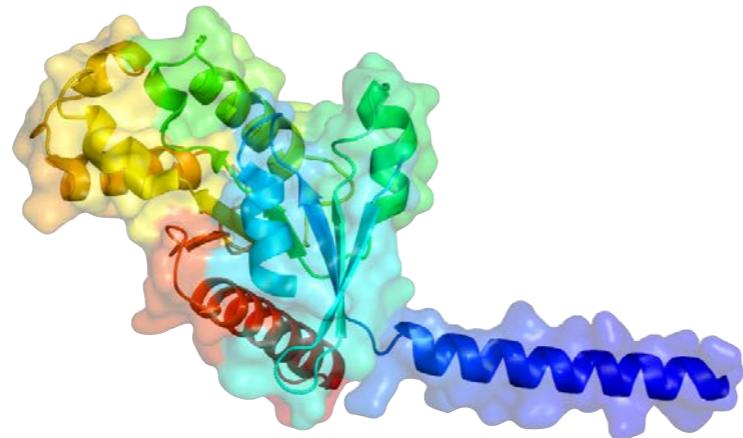
Mass  
Coordinates  
Velocities  
Accelerations



# Newton to rescue

Consider a protein at time  $t$

Mass  
Coordinates  
Velocities  
Accelerations



$\Delta t$

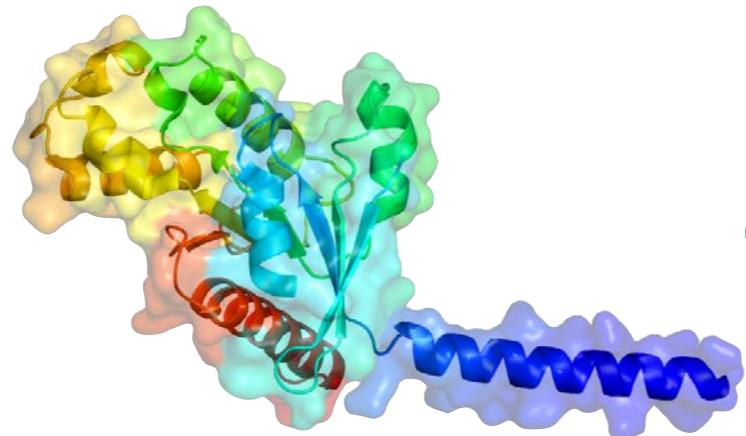
????

Where will all atoms of the protein be at time  $t + \Delta t$  ?

# Newton to rescue

Consider a protein at time t

Mass  
Coordinates  
Velocities  
Accelerations



$\Delta t$

????

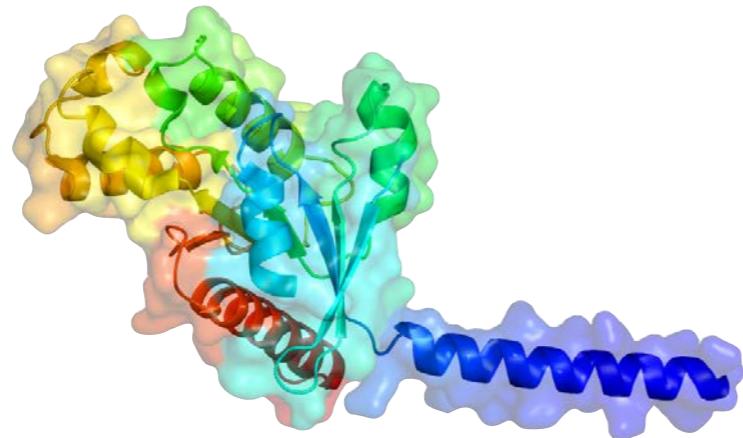
Where will all atoms of the protein be at time  $t + \Delta t$  ?

$$F = ma$$

# Newton to rescue

Mass  
Coordinates  
Velocities  
Accelerations

Consider a protein at time  $t$



$\Delta t$

????

Where will all atoms of the protein be at time  $t + \Delta t$  ?

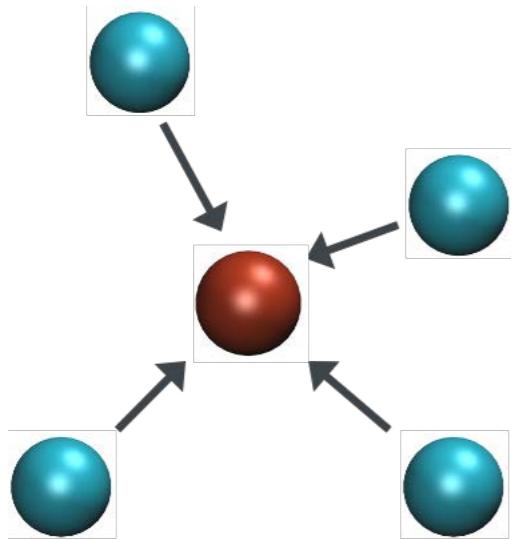
$$F = ma$$

Solution: discretised time step ( $\Delta t$ ).

$$r_i(t_0) \longrightarrow r_i(t_0 + \Delta t) \longrightarrow r_i(t_0 + 2\Delta t) \longrightarrow r_i(t_0 + 3\Delta t) \longrightarrow r_i(t_0 + n\Delta t)$$

# We need to calculate the force!

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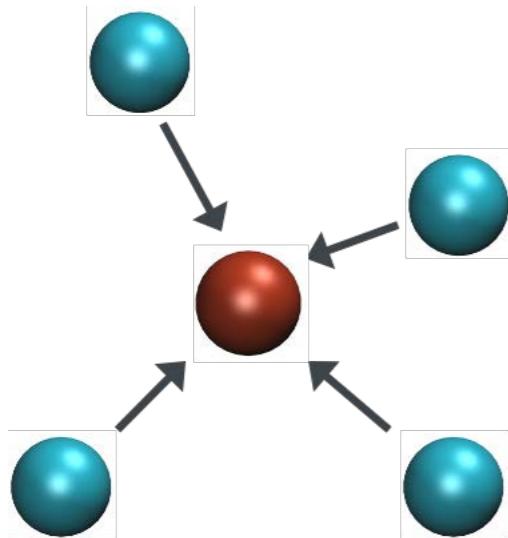


$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

Potential energy

# We need to calculate the force!

---



$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

Potential energy

Potential energy or force field

$$U(r) = U_{\text{Bond}} + U_{\text{Angle}} + U_{\text{Dihedral}} + U_{\text{Coulomb}} + U_{\text{VdW}}$$

# We need to calculate the force!

---

$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

Our potential function or ‘force field’ is defined by  
**bonded** and non-bonded interactions.

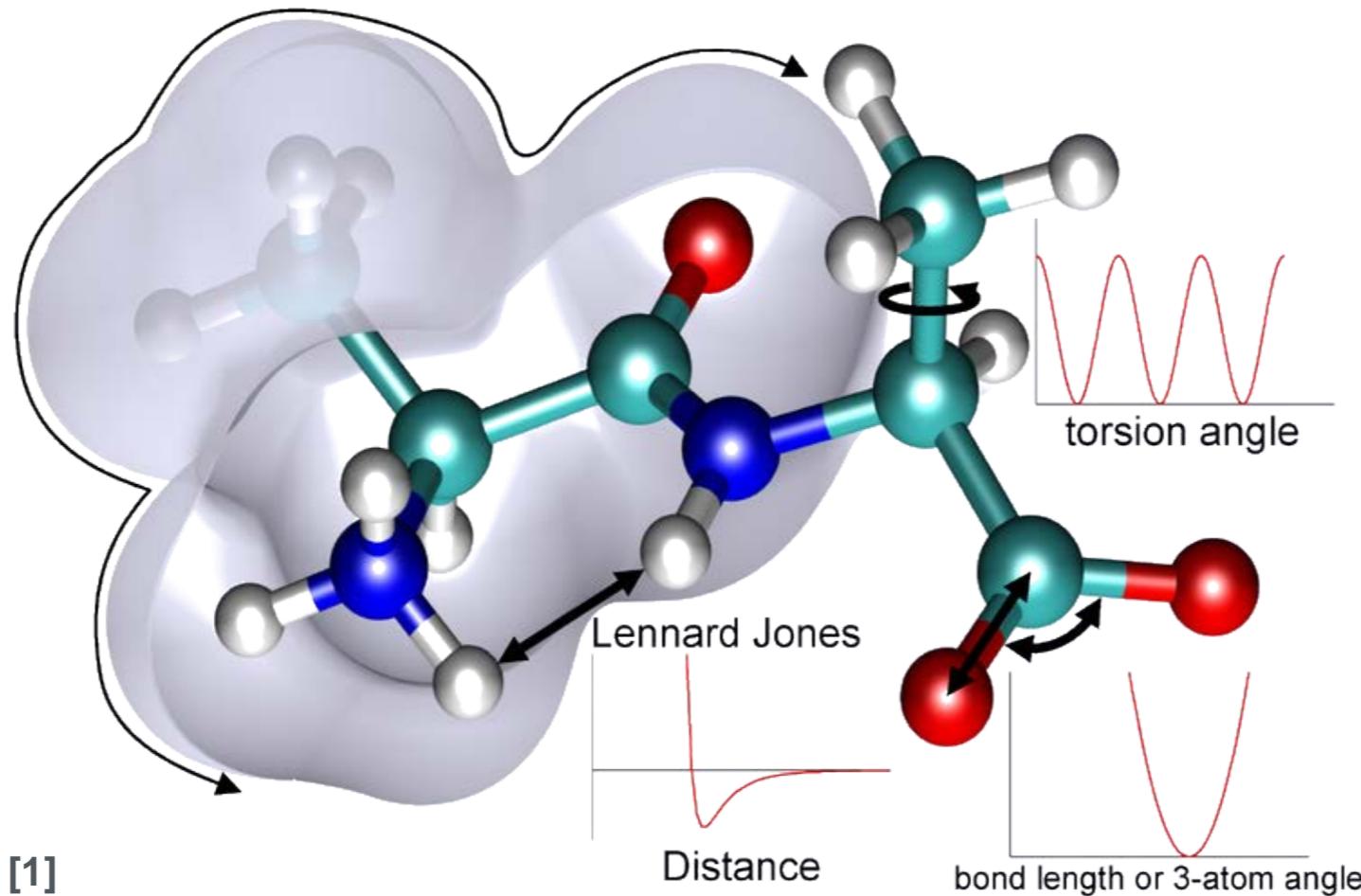
$$U(r) = U_{\text{Bond}} + U_{\text{Angle}} + U_{\text{Dihedral}} + U_{\text{Coulomb}} + U_{\text{VdW}}$$

# We need to calculate the force!

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$$U(r) = \boxed{U_{\text{Bond}} + U_{\text{Angle}} + U_{\text{Dihedral}}} + U_{\text{Coulomb}} + U_{\text{VdW}}$$



[1] force field / Edboas CC BY-SA 3.0

# We need to calculate the force!

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Our potential function or ‘force field’ is defined by bonded and **non-bonded** interactions.

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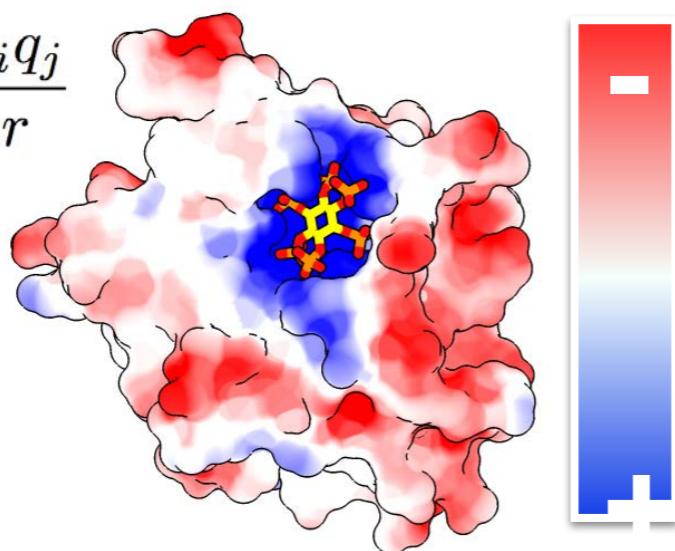
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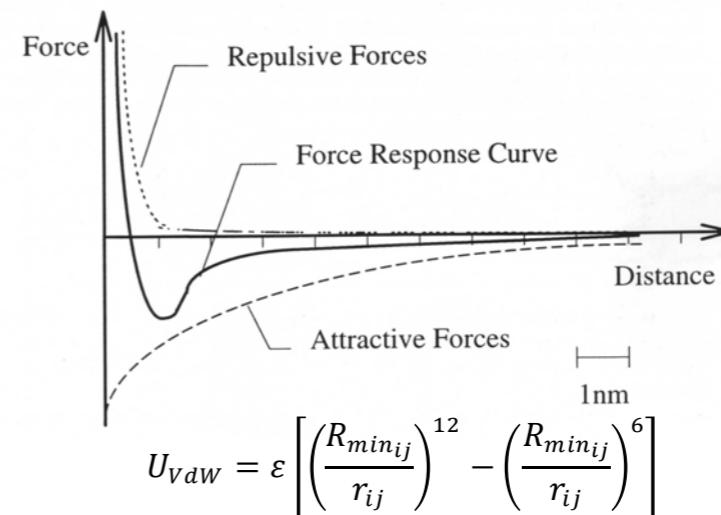
$$U(r) = U_{\text{Bond}} + U_{\text{Angle}} + U_{\text{Dihedral}} + U_{\text{Coulomb}} + U_{\text{VdW}}$$

## Electrostatic interaction

$$V_C = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r} \frac{q_i q_j}{r}$$



## van der Waals forces



# We need to calculate the force!

---

$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

Our potential function or '**force field**' is defined by bonded and non-bonded interactions.

$$U(r) = U_{\text{Bond}} + U_{\text{Angle}} + U_{\text{Dihedral}} + U_{\text{Coulomb}} + U_{\text{VdW}}$$

# We need to calculate the force!

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$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

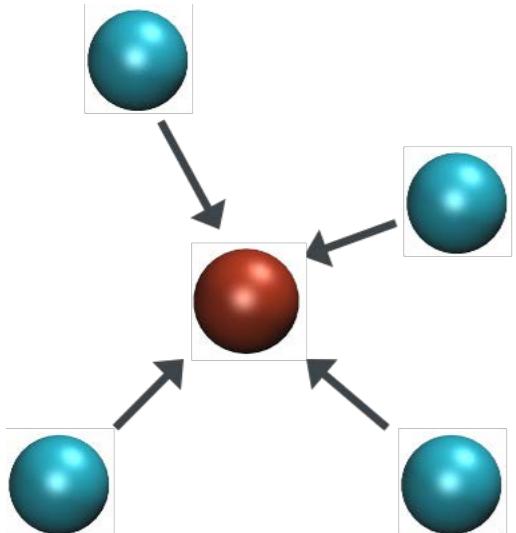
Our potential function or ‘**force field**’ is defined by bonded and non-bonded interactions.

$$U(r) = U_{\text{Bond}} + U_{\text{Angle}} + U_{\text{Dihedral}} + U_{\text{Coulomb}} + U_{\text{VdW}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} U = & \sum_{\text{Bond}} k_b (b - b_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{Angle}} k_\theta (\theta - \theta_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{Dihedral}} k_\varphi [1 + \cos(n\varphi - \delta)] \\ & + \sum_{\text{Coulomb}} \frac{q_i q_j}{\varepsilon r_{ij}} + \sum_{\text{VdW}} \varepsilon \left[ \left( \frac{R_{min_{ij}}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{R_{min_{ij}}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] \end{aligned}$$

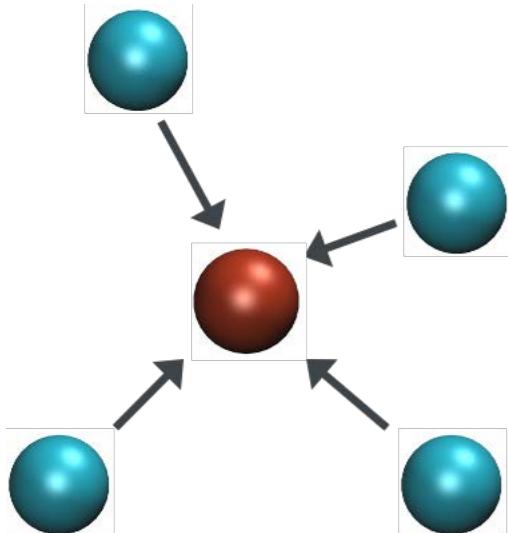
# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

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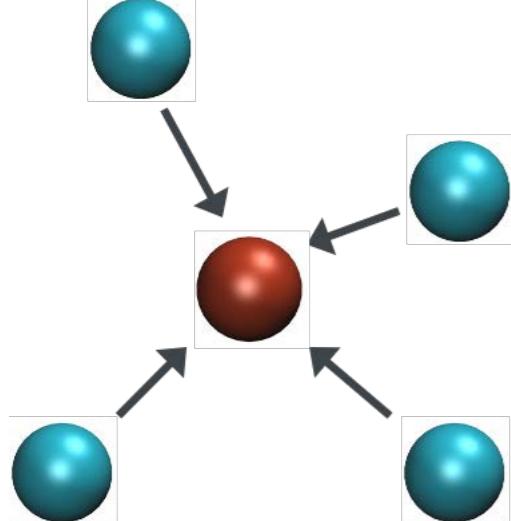
# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

$$U = \sum_{Bond} k_b(b - b_0)^2 + \sum_{Angle} k_\theta(\theta - \theta_0)^2 + \sum_{Dihedral} k_\varphi[1 + \cos(n\varphi - \delta)] \\ + \sum_{Coulomb} \frac{q_i q_j}{\varepsilon r_{ij}} + \sum_{VdW} \varepsilon \left[ \left( \frac{R_{min_{ij}}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{R_{min_{ij}}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$



# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

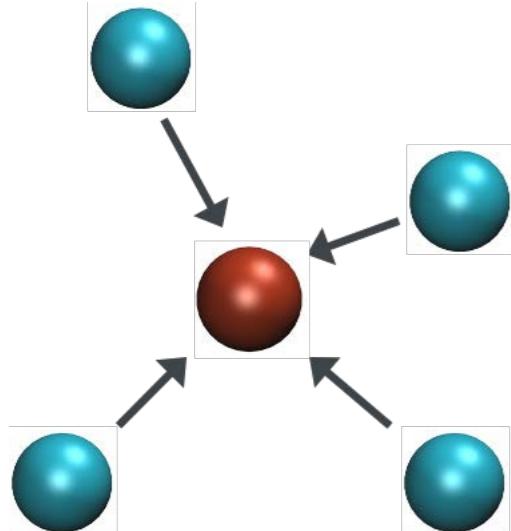
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$$\downarrow$$
$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$

# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

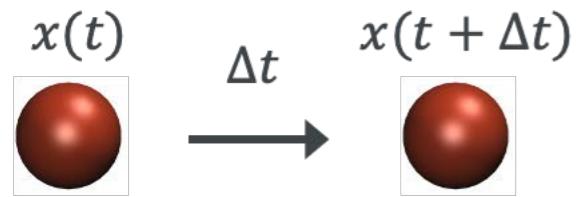
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$$\downarrow$$
$$F = \frac{-\partial U(r)}{\partial r}$$
$$\downarrow$$
$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

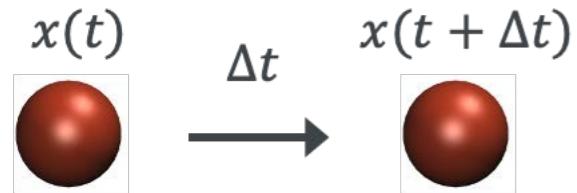
# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

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# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

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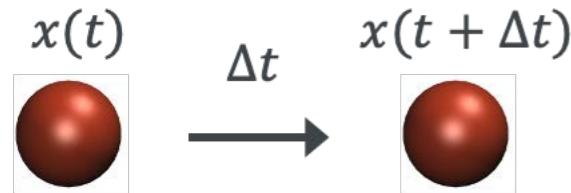


Simple algorithm to propagate system:

- 1) Particle has position  $\mathbf{x}$  and velocity  $\mathbf{v}$  at time  $t$
- 2) Determine forces and acceleration acting on the particle
- 3) Move the particle for time step  $\Delta t$

# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

---



Simple algorithm to propagate system:

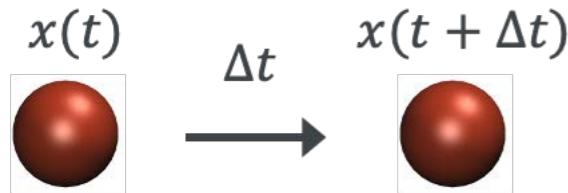
- 1) Particle has position  $\mathbf{x}$  and velocity  $\mathbf{v}$  at time  $t$
- 2) Determine forces and acceleration acting on the particle
- 3) Move the particle for time step  $\Delta t$

Update position:

$$x(t + \Delta t) = x(t) + v(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}a(t)\Delta t^2$$

# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

---



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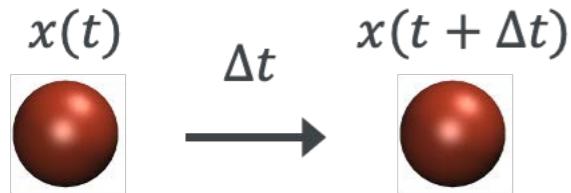
$$x(t + \Delta t) = x(t) + v(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}a(t)\Delta t^2$$

Update velocity:

$$v(t + \Delta t) = \frac{x(t + \Delta t) - x(t)}{\Delta t}$$

# Basic molecular dynamics simulation algorithm

---



Simple algorithm to propagate system:

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Update velocity:

$$v(t + \Delta t) = \frac{x(t + \Delta t) - x(t)}{\Delta t}$$

## How small/large can $\Delta t$ be?

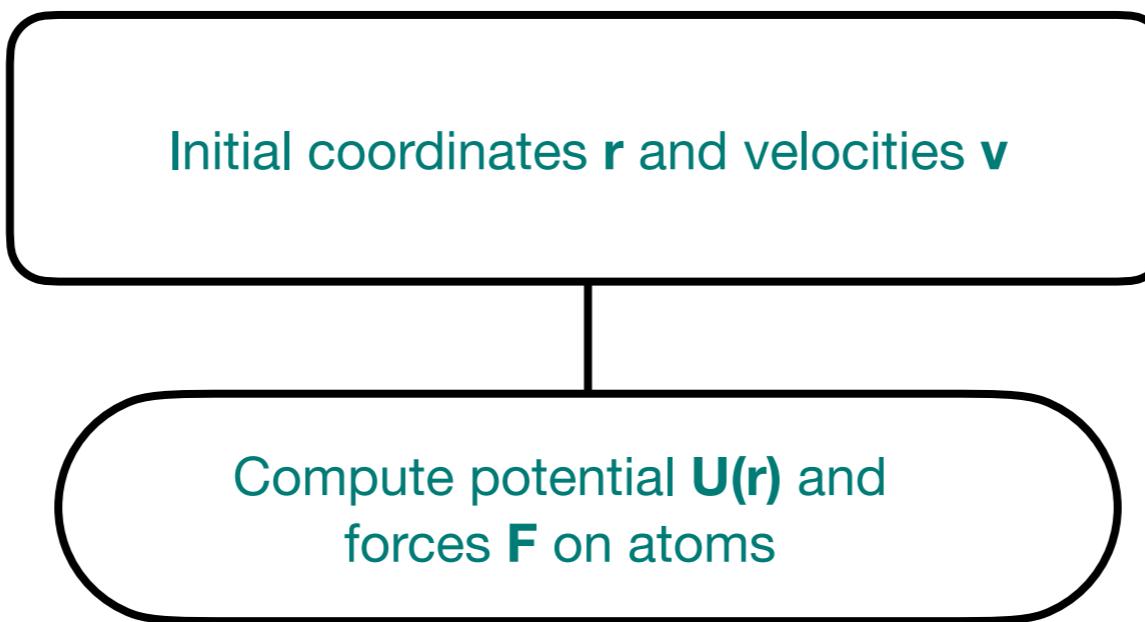
# Molecular dynamics simulations: Algorithm

---

Initial coordinates  $\mathbf{r}$  and velocities  $\mathbf{v}$

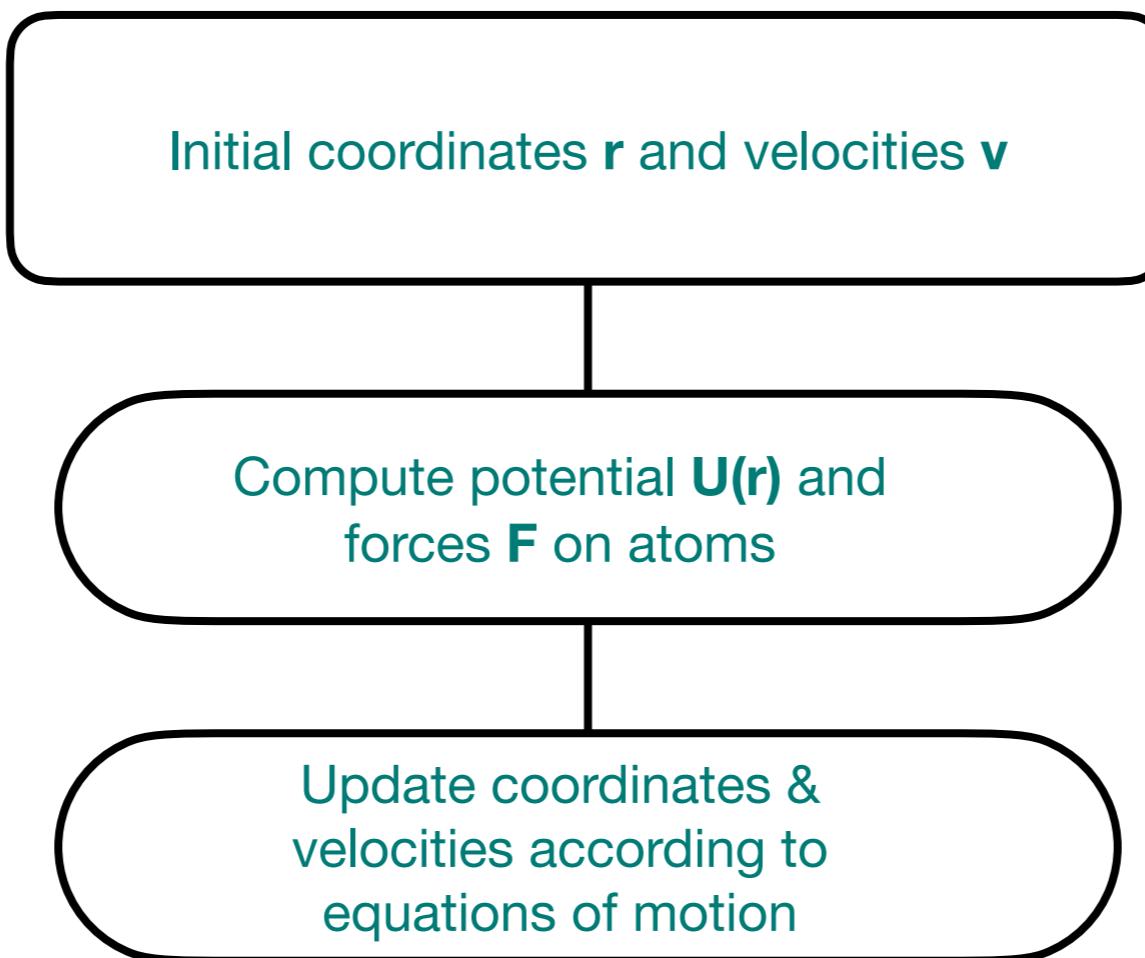
# Molecular dynamics simulations: Algorithm

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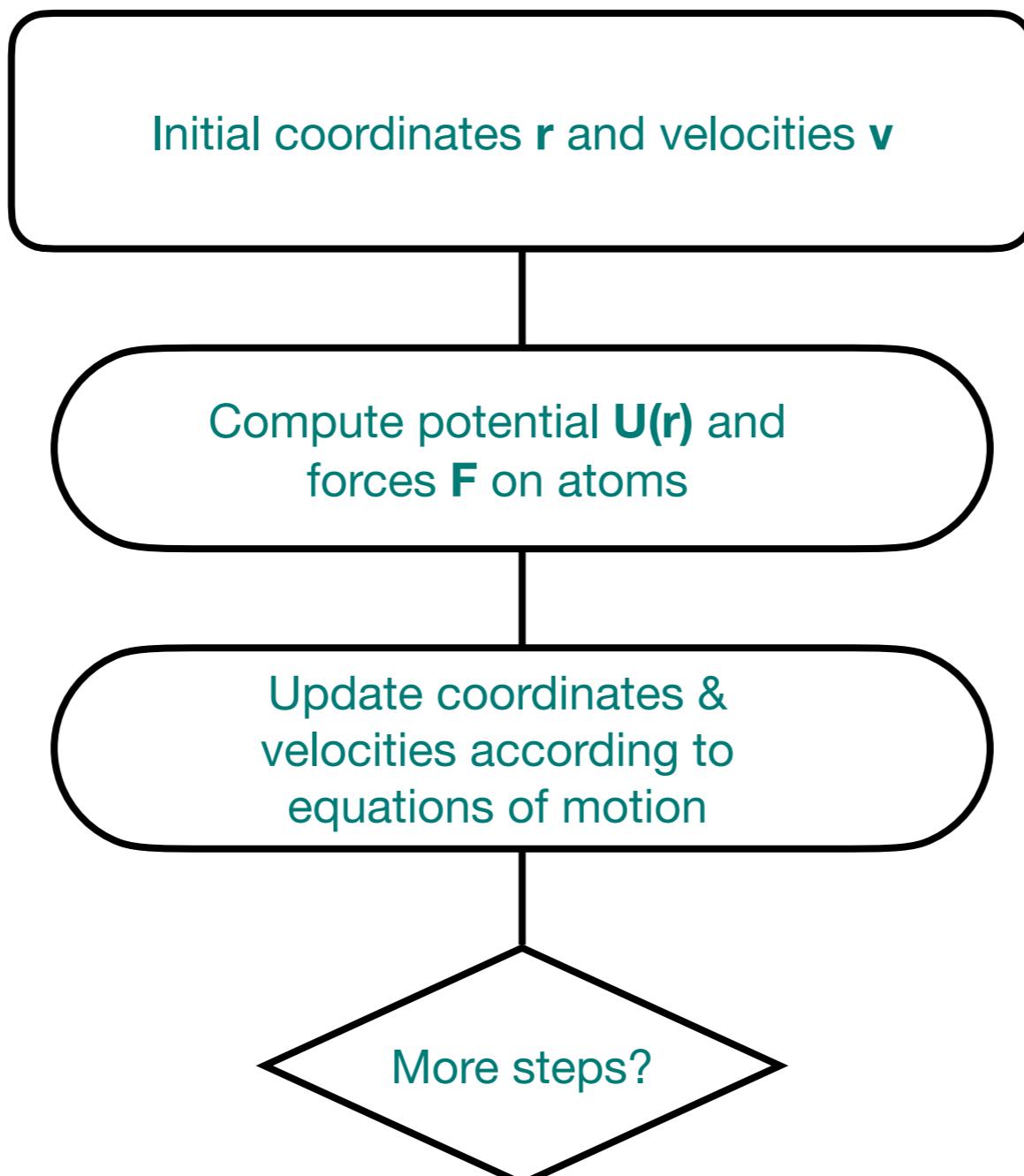
# Molecular dynamics simulations: Algorithm

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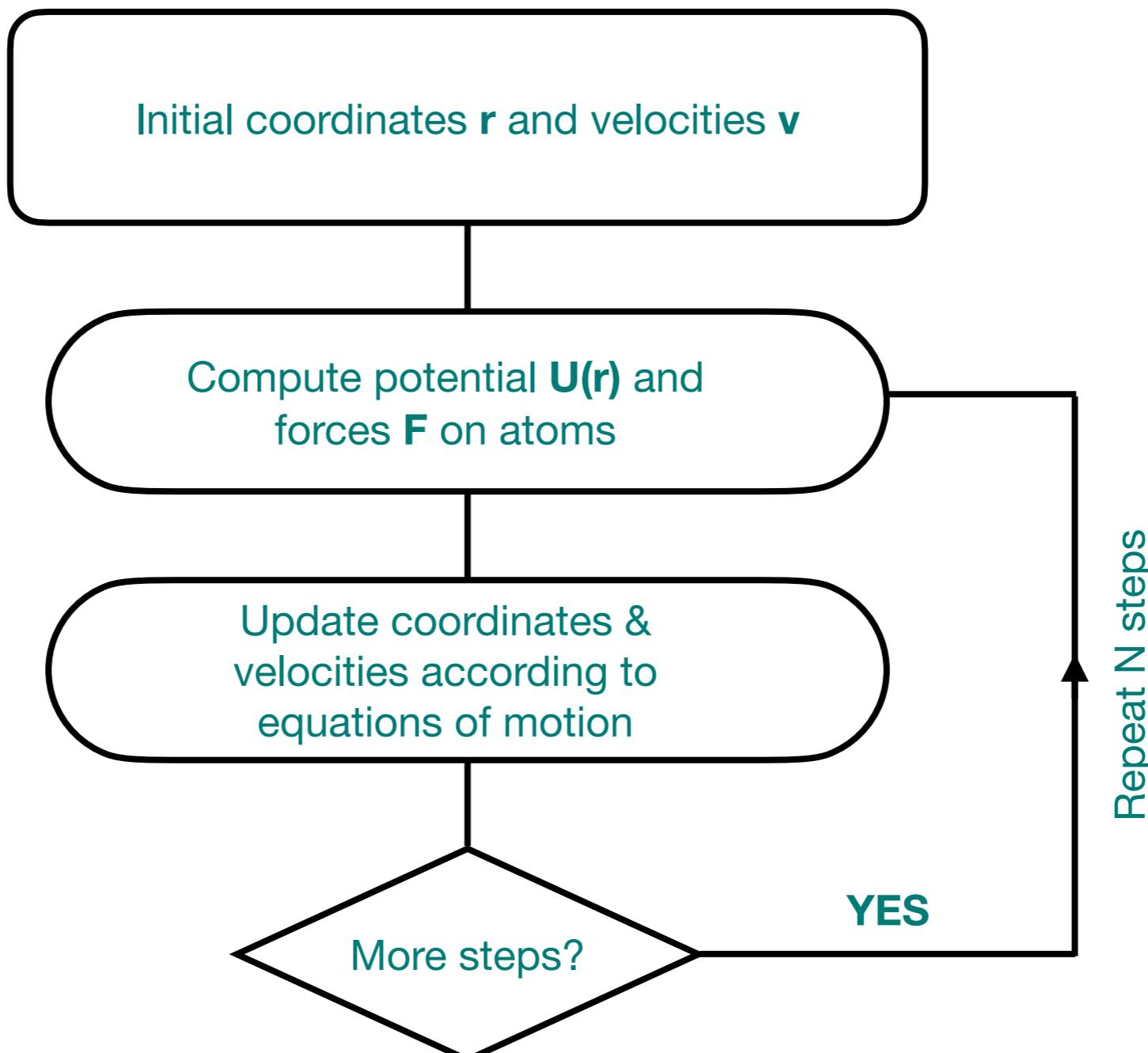


# Molecular dynamics simulations: Algorithm

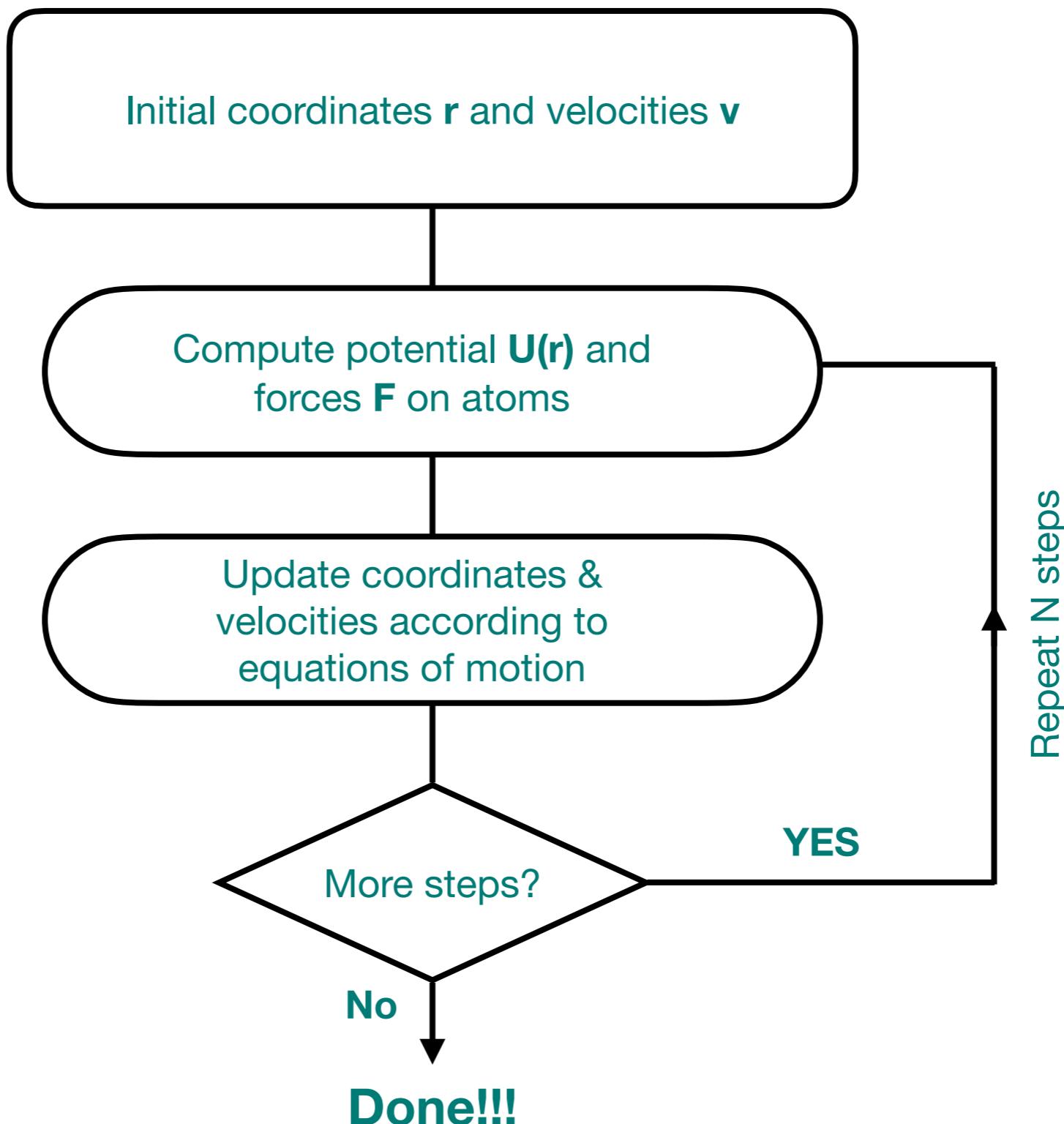
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# Molecular dynamics simulations: Algorithm

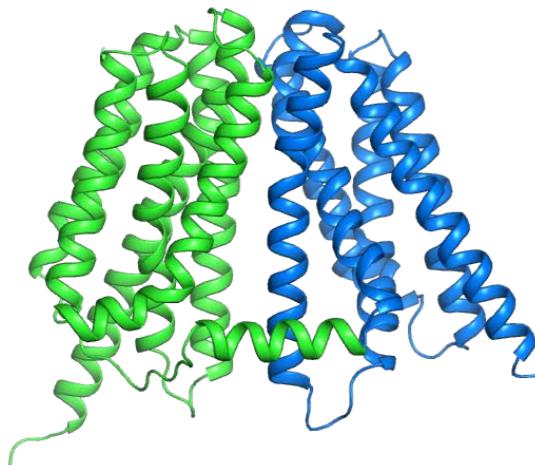


# Molecular dynamics simulations: Algorithm



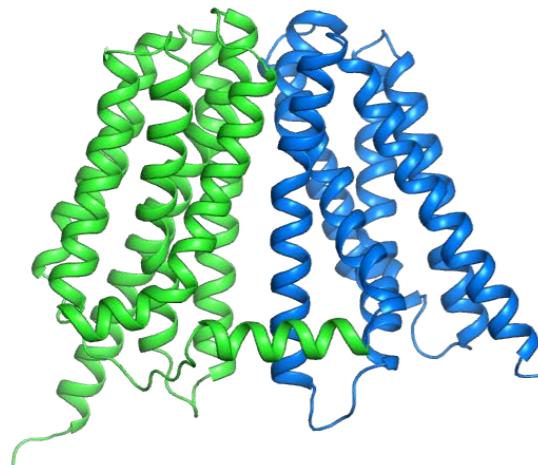
# How to run an MD simulation?

---



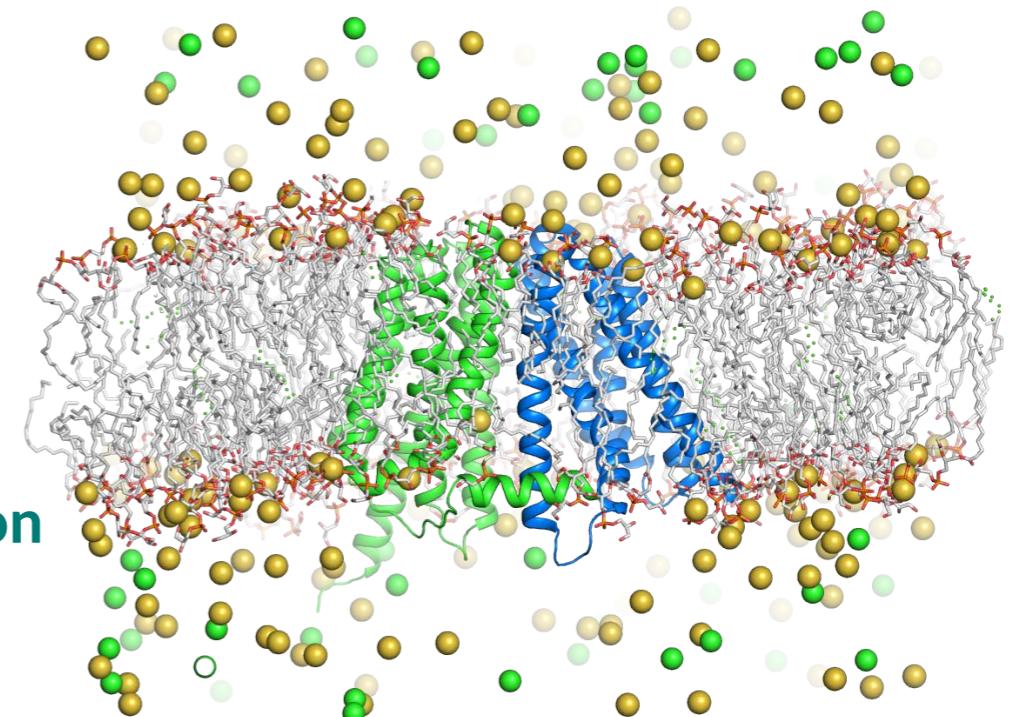
**Protein preparation**

# How to run an MD simulation?

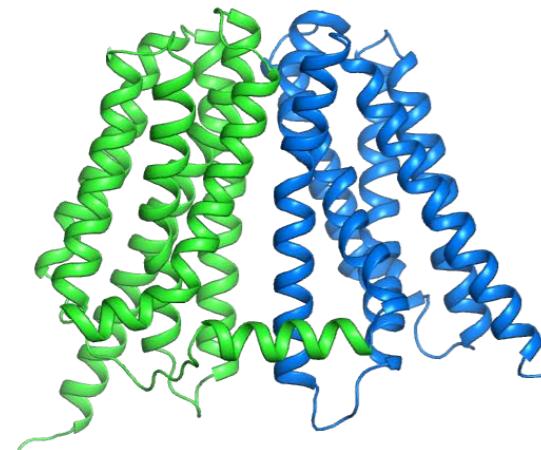


Protein preparation

Add membrane  
And ions  
to reach physiological concentration

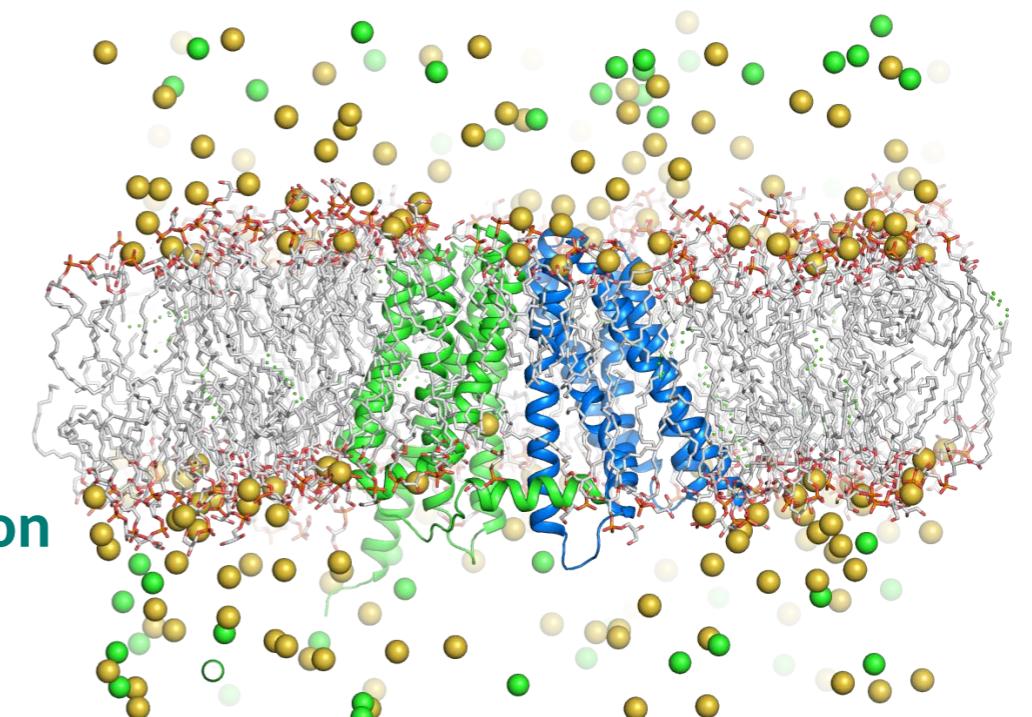


# How to run an MD simulation?

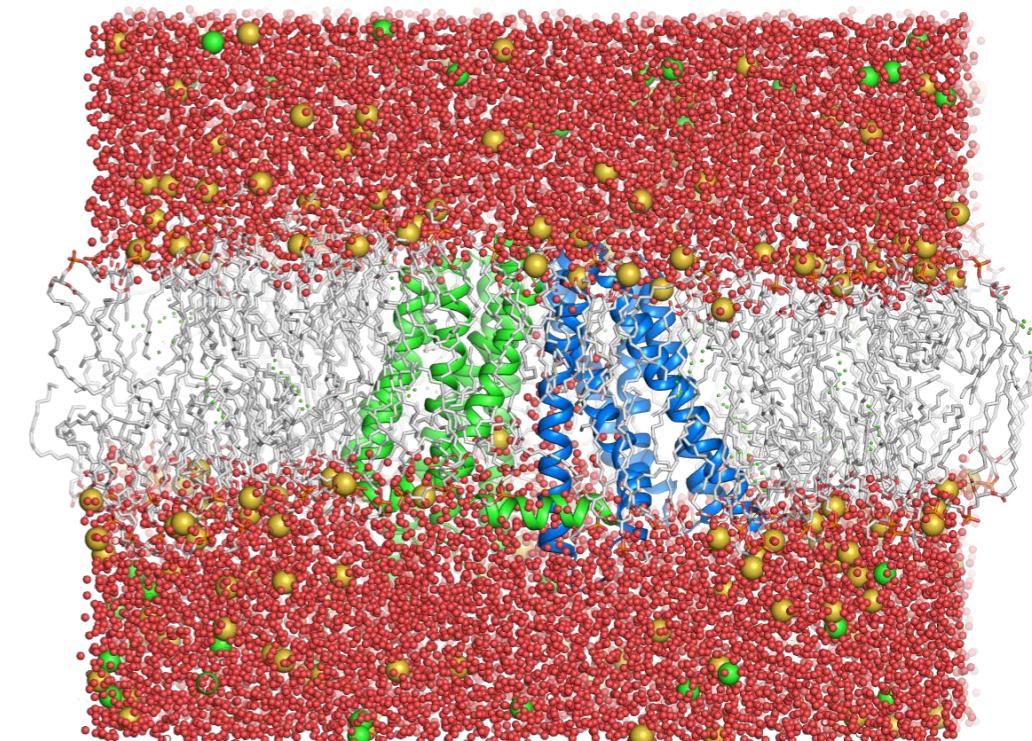


Protein preparation

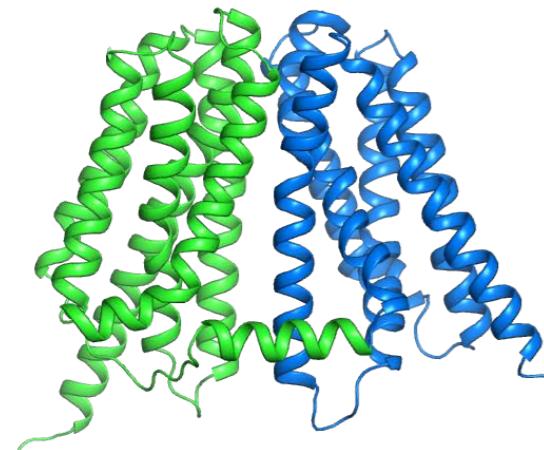
Add membrane  
And ions  
to reach physiological concentration



Add water



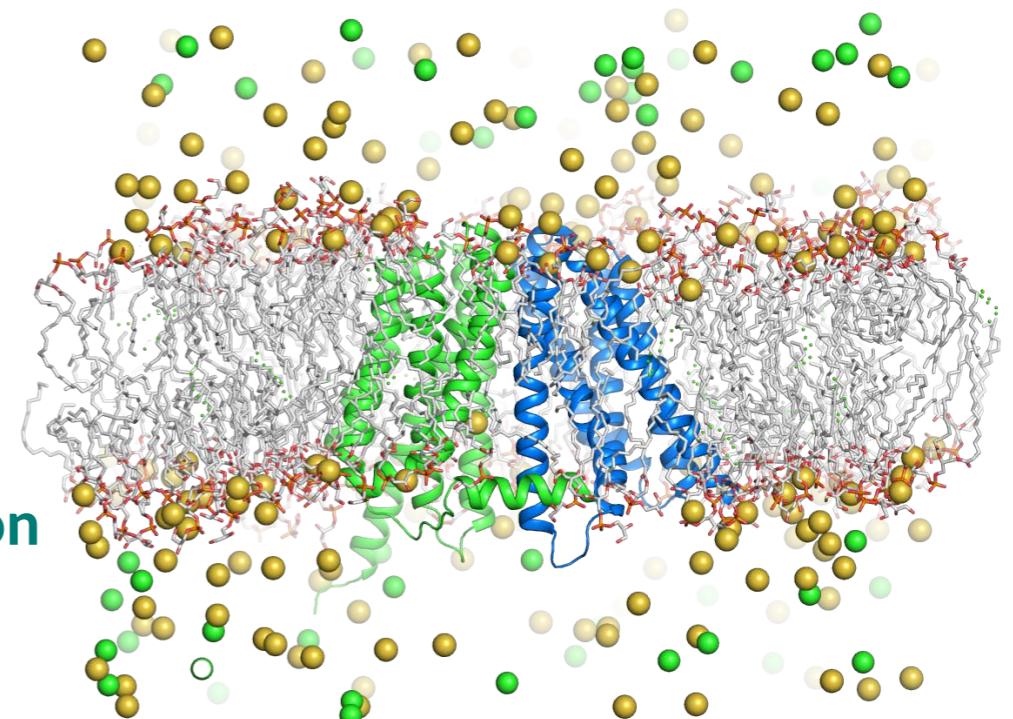
# How to run an MD simulation?



Protein preparation

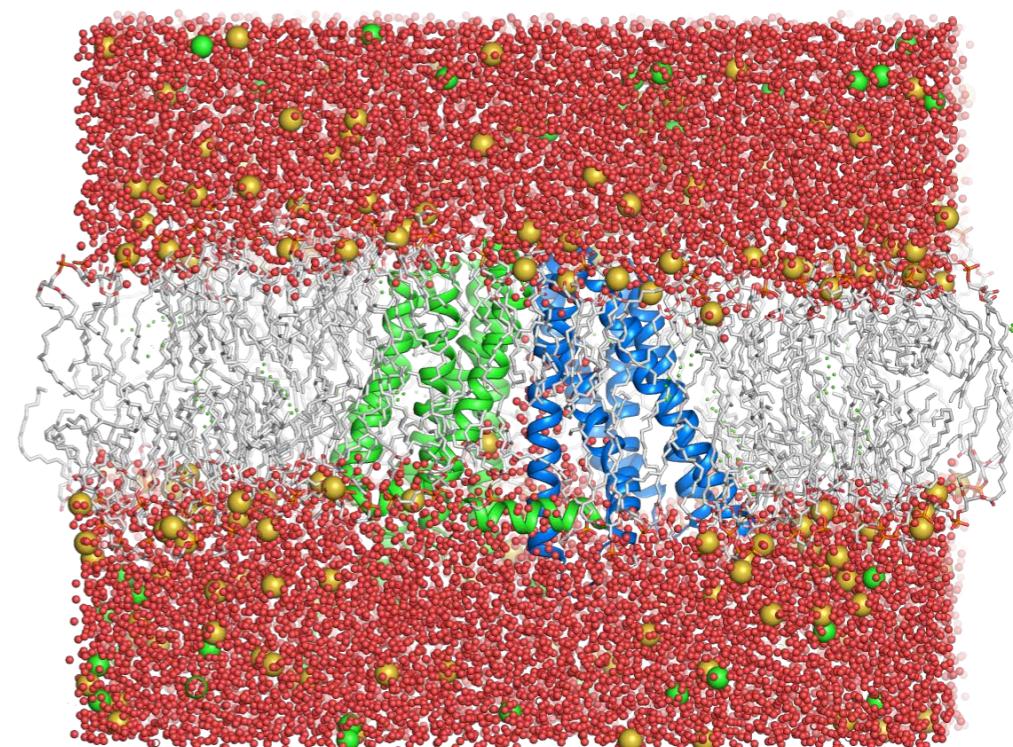
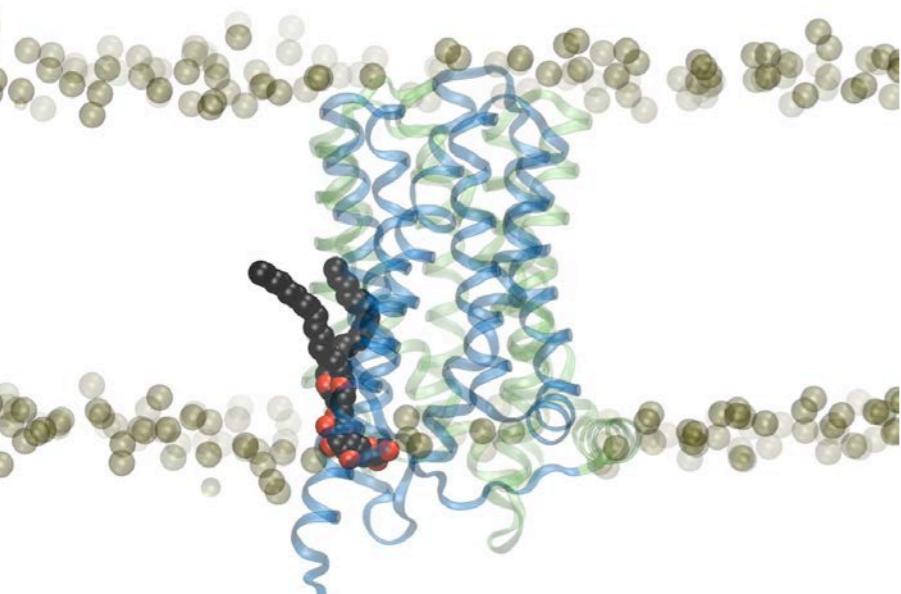
Add membrane  
→

And ions  
to reach physiological concentration



↓ Add water

← Run the simulation



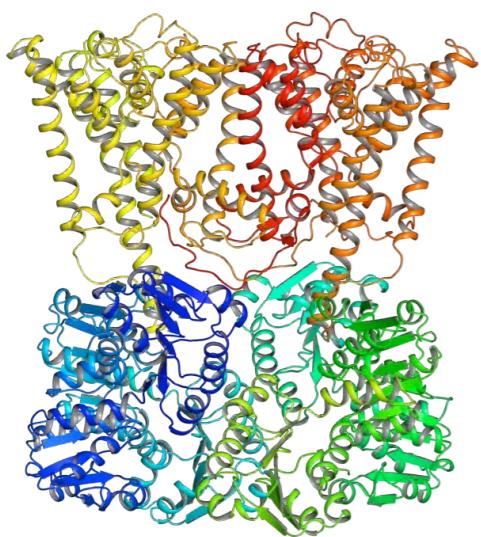
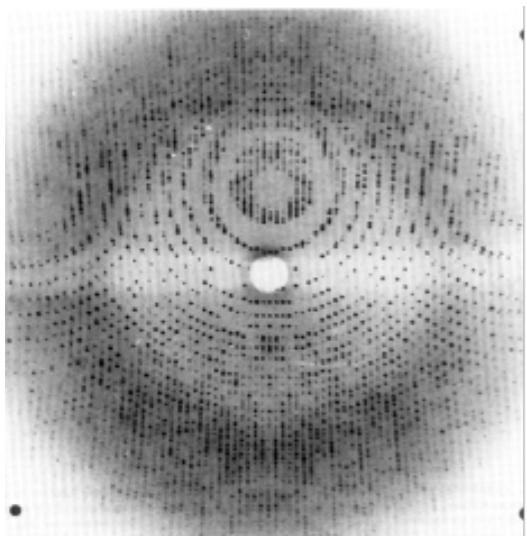
# Membrane protein structure as starting point

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# Membrane protein structure as starting point

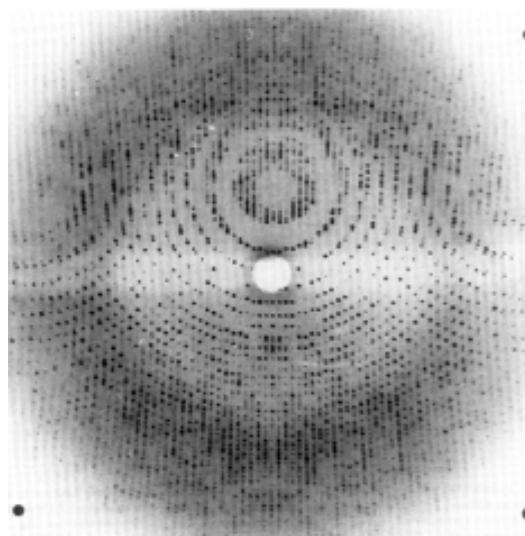
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X-ray crystallography

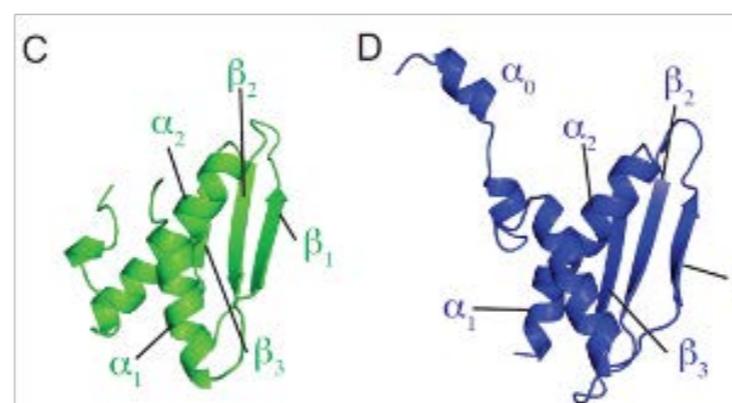
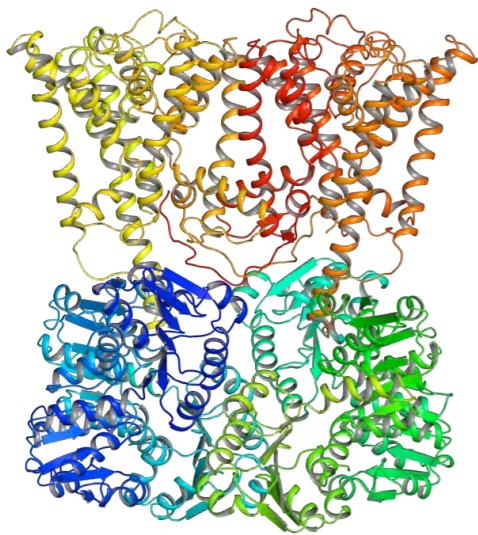


# Membrane protein structure as starting point

X-ray crystallography

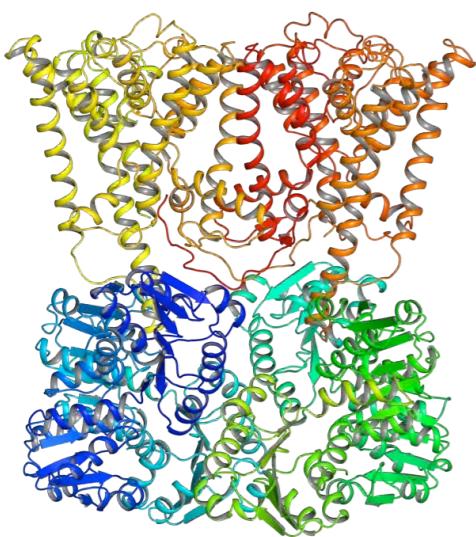
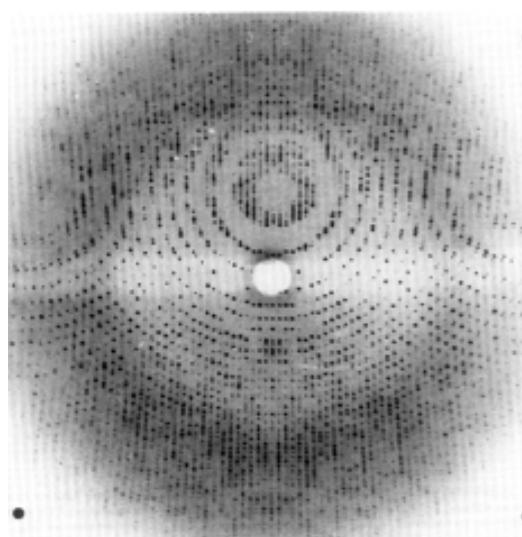


NMR

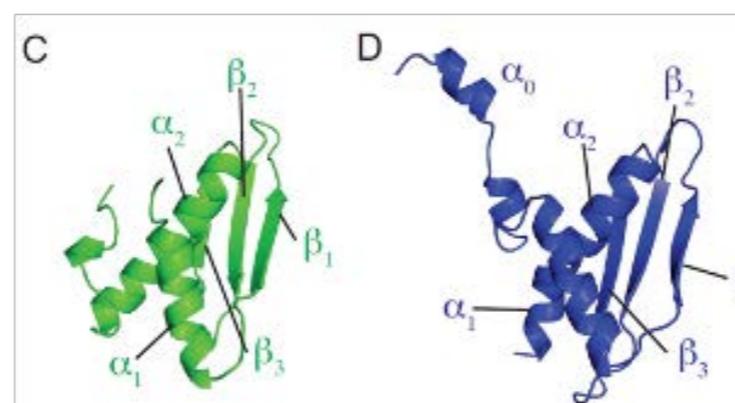


# Membrane protein structure as starting point

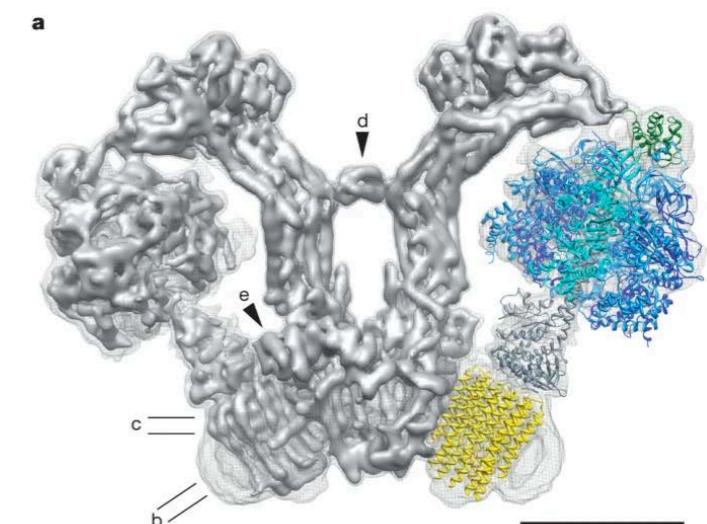
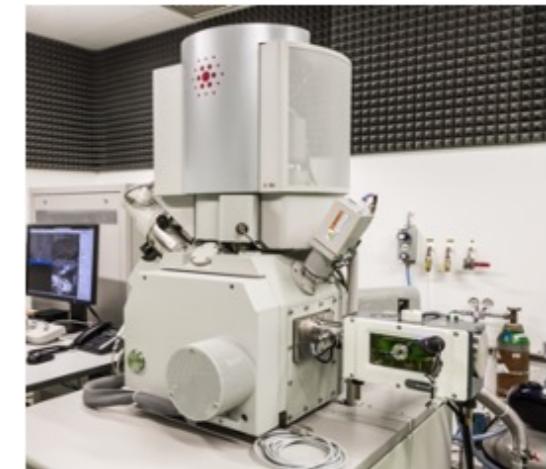
X-ray crystallography



NMR

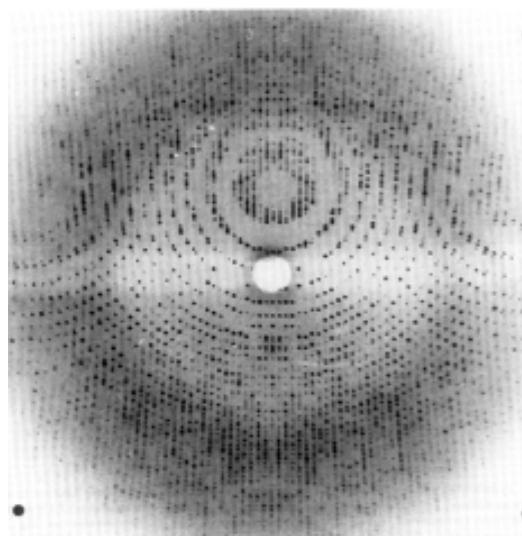


Cryo-EM



# Membrane protein structure as starting point

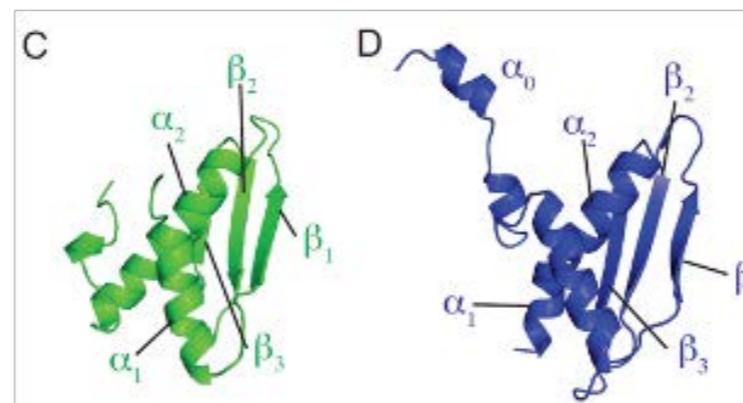
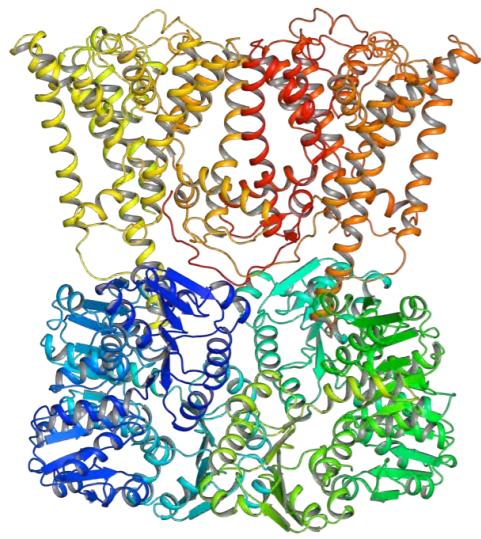
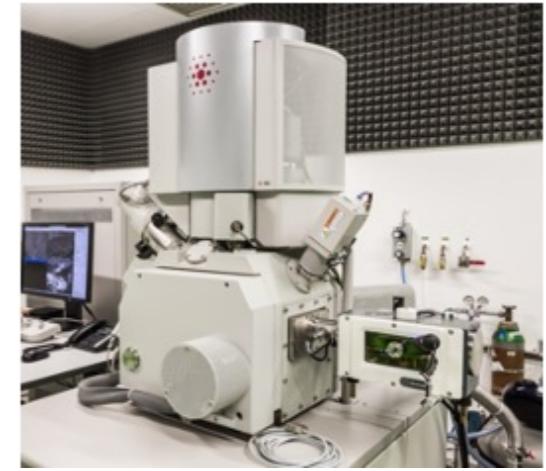
X-ray crystallography



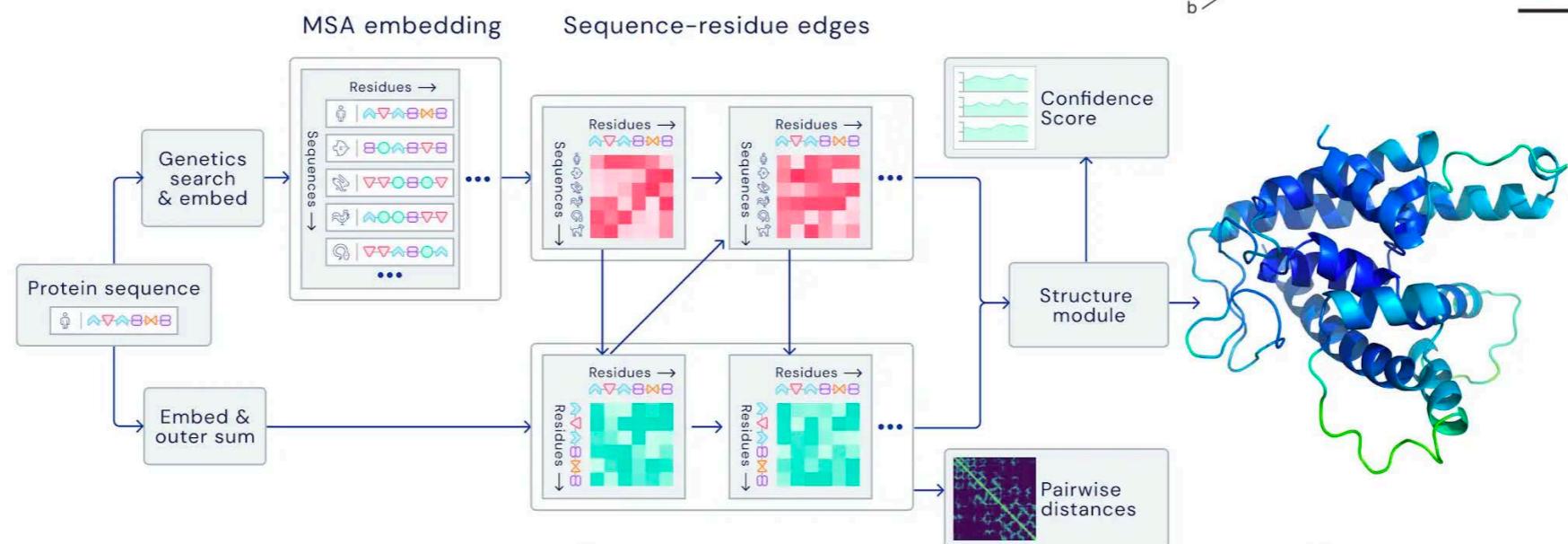
NMR



Cryo-EM



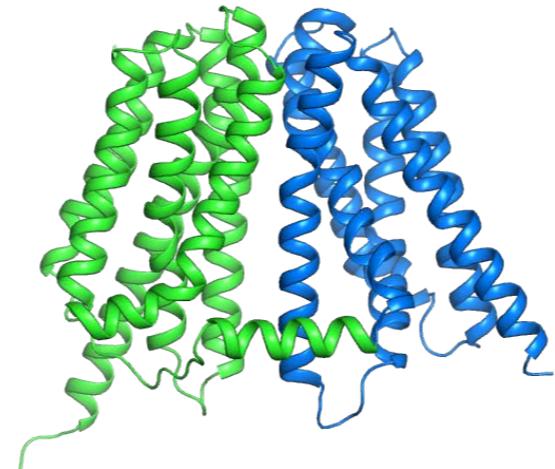
ML/AI-based  
structure prediction



# Protein preparation

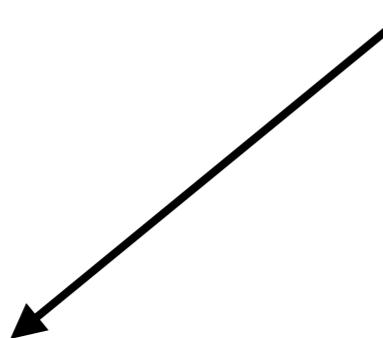
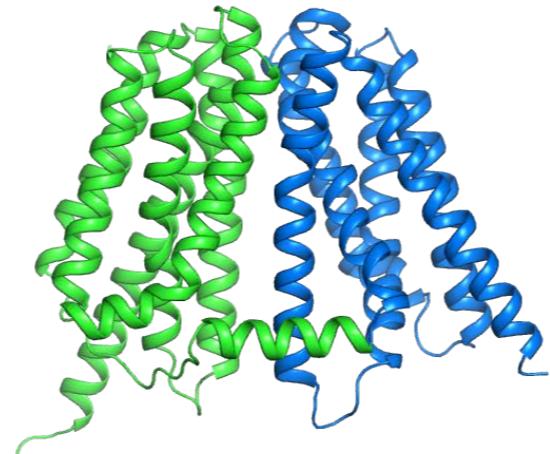
---

## Protein preparation



# Protein preparation

## Protein preparation

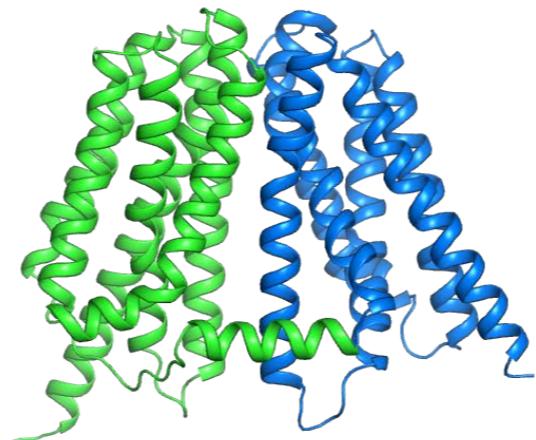


### Structure refinement:

1. Add missing side-chains
2. Add missing loop

# Protein preparation

## Protein preparation



### Structure refinement:

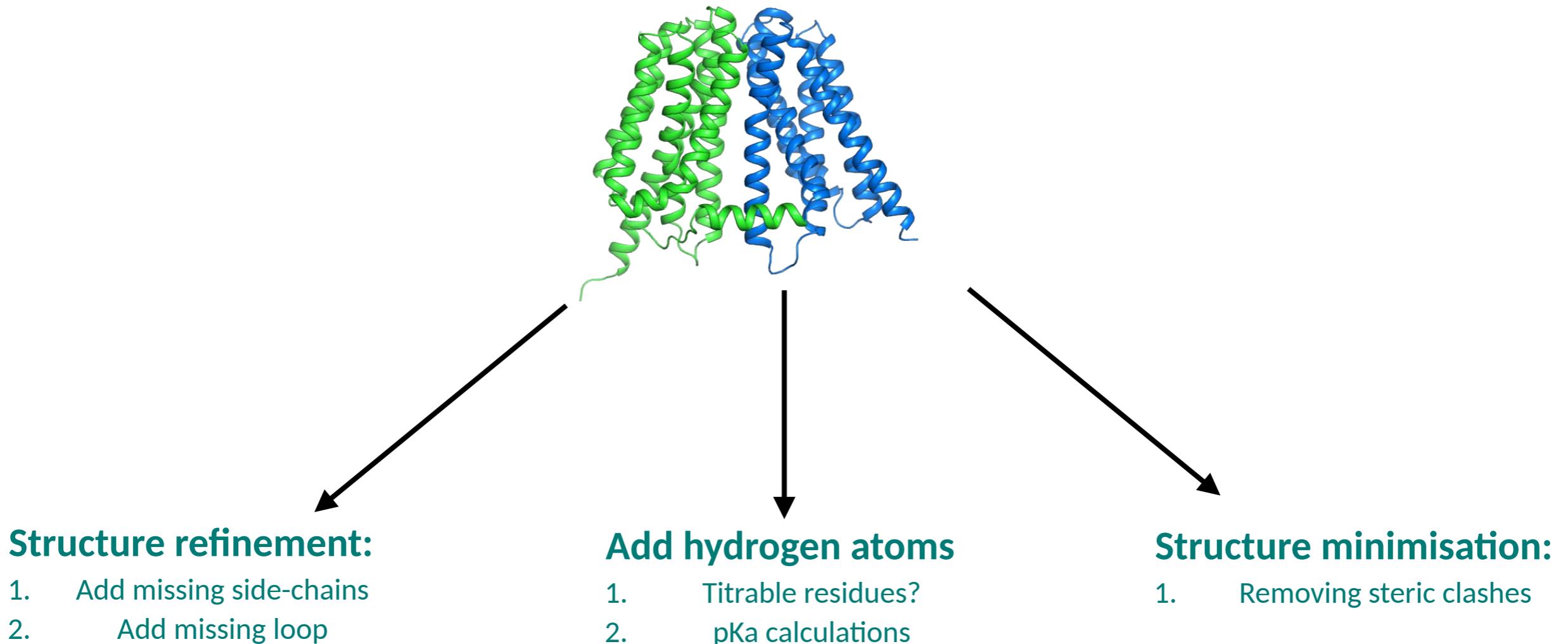
1. Add missing side-chains
2. Add missing loop

### Add hydrogen atoms

1. Titrable residues?
2. pKa calculations

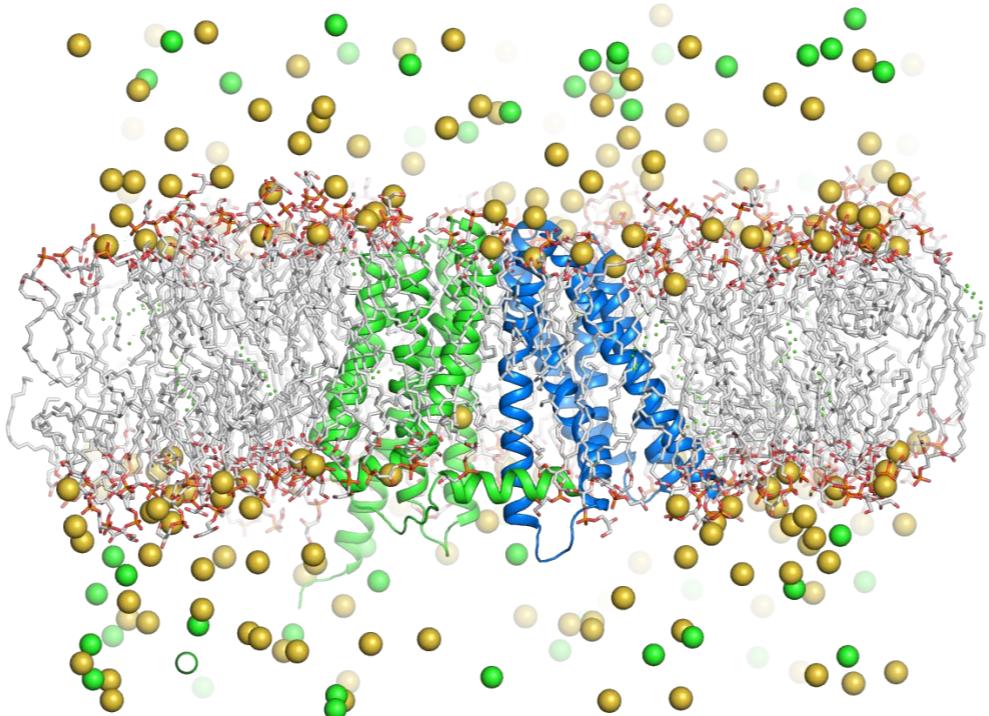
# Protein preparation

## Protein preparation

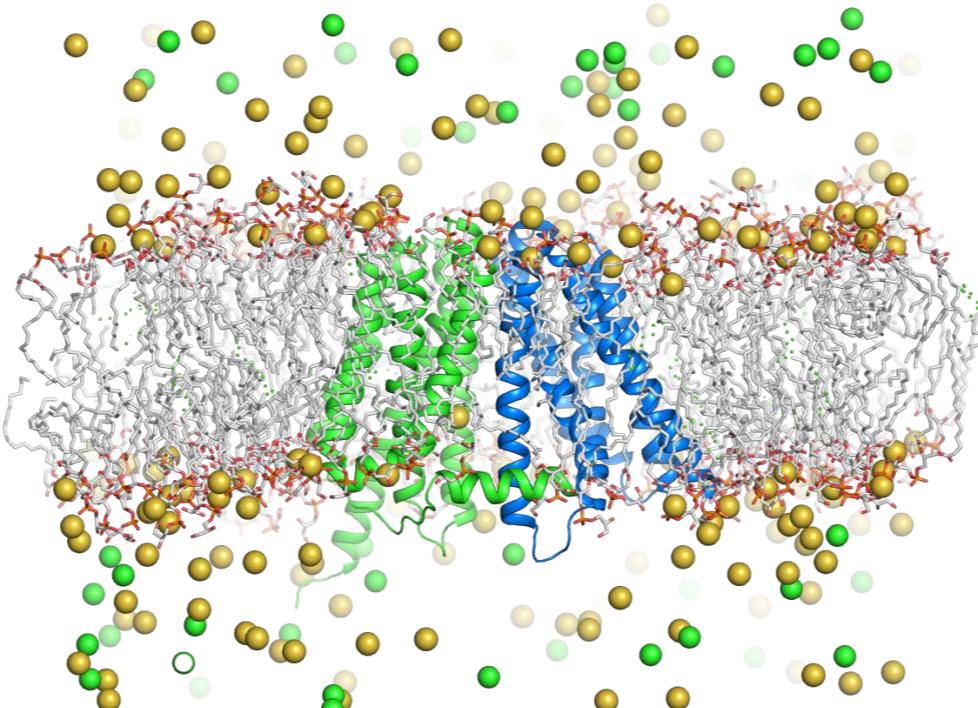


# Add membrane

---



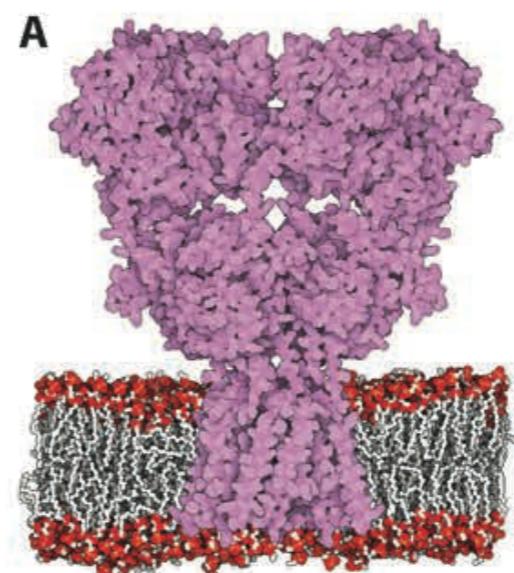
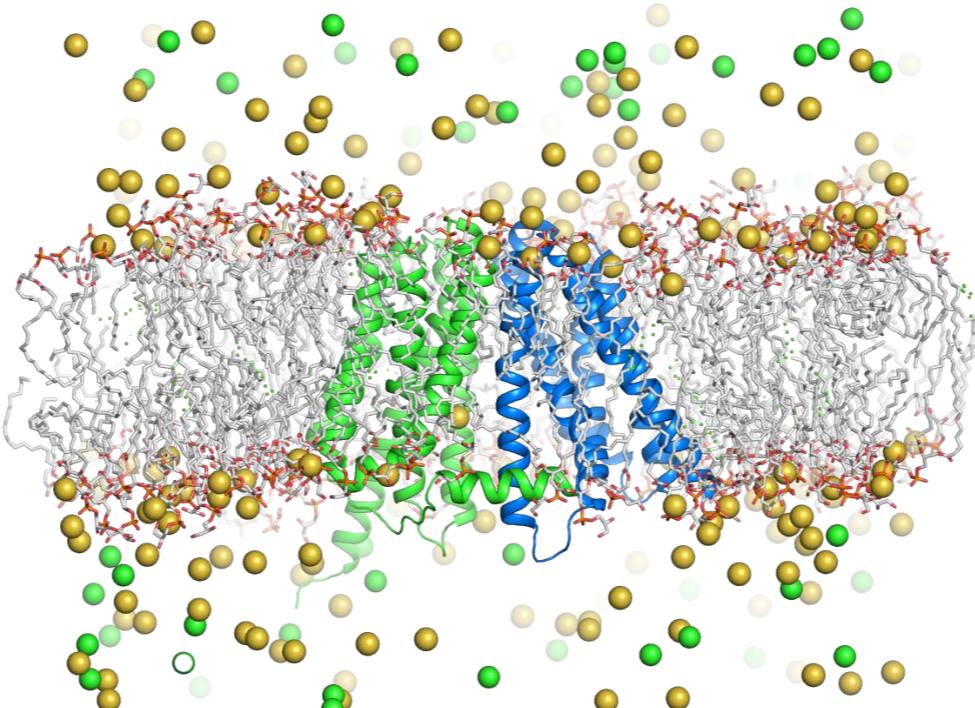
# Add membrane



## Complexity of membrane composition

1. Homogenous membrane
2. Heterogeneous membrane

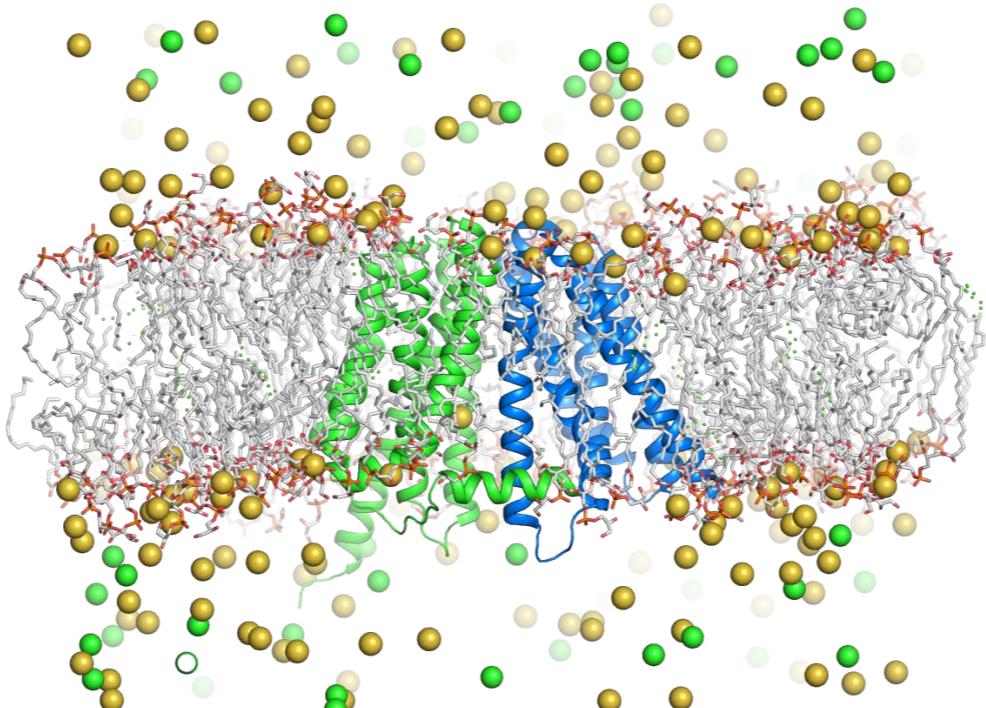
# Add membrane



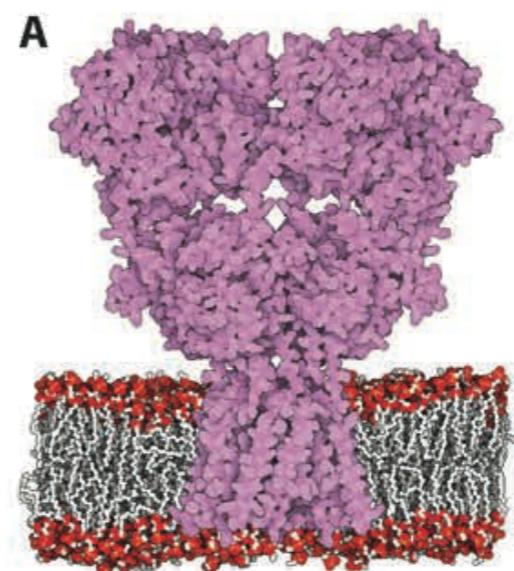
## Complexity of membrane composition

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2. Heterogeneous membrane

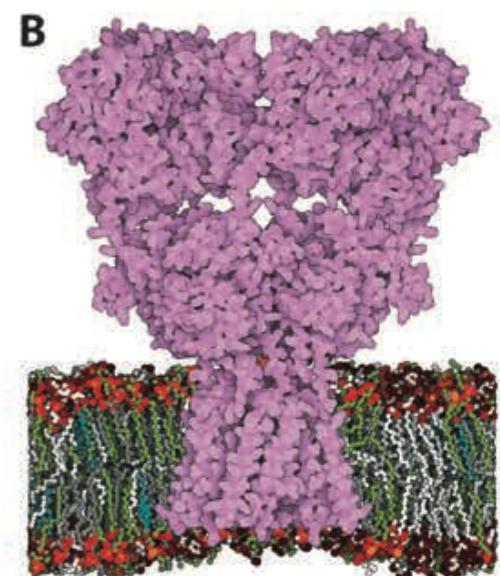
# Add membrane



A



B



## Complexity of membrane composition

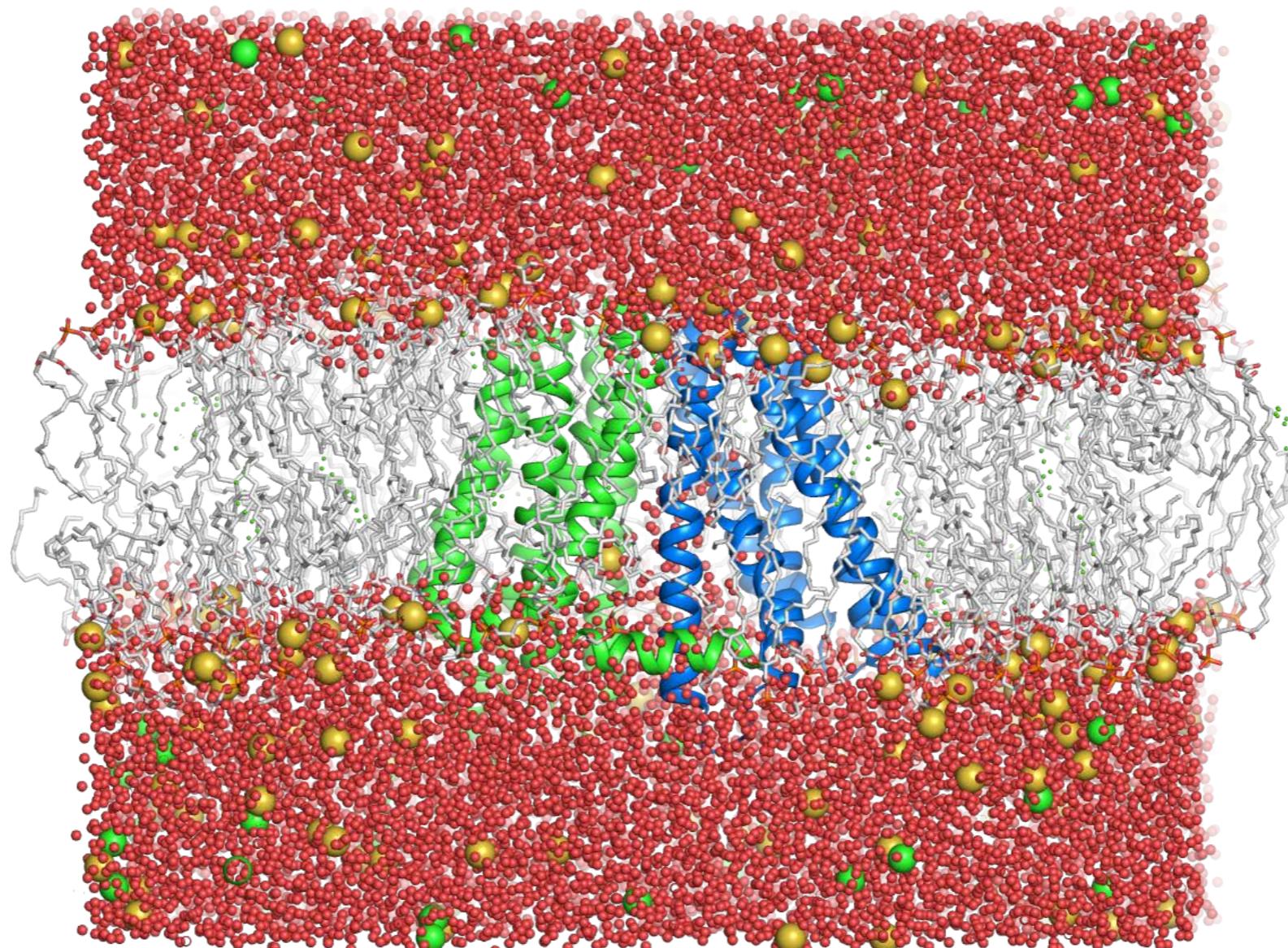
1. Homogenous membrane
2. Heterogeneous membrane

# Add water: full system

---

# Add water: full system

---



# Engines to run MD

---

**openmm/openmm**

OpenMM is a toolkit for molecular simulation using high performance GPU code.



**NAMD**  
Scalable Molecular Dynamics

**AMBER MD**

**GROMACS**  
*fast, flexible & free*



Molecular Dynamics Simulations  
**CHARMM**

# A web-server to setup your system

**CHARMM-GUI**  
Effective Simulation Input Generator and More.

CHARMM is a versatile program for atomic-level simulation of many-particle systems, particularly macromolecules of biological interest. - M. Karplus

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Some [lectures](#), [job postings](#), and [FAQ](#) are now available. See [update log](#) for update history and [giving](#) for donation. [Contact](#) info is given below.

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**CHARMM-GUI**

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ST-analyzer

**Front Page**

Since its original development in 2006, CHARMM-GUI has proven to be an ideal web-based platform to interactively build complex systems and prepare their inputs with well-established and reproducible simulation protocols for state-of-the-art molecular simulations using widely used simulation packages such as CHARMM, NAMD, GROMACS, AMBER, GENESIS, Tinker, LAMMPS, Desmond, and OpenMM. The CHARMM-GUI development project has been widely adopted for various purposes and now contains a number of different modules designed to set up a broad range of molecular simulation systems in [Input Generator](#). Many original modules were developed as an in-house effort, but we have established close collaborations with the developers of CHARMM and other MD simulation packages for addition of newer modules.

Our philosophy in CHARMM-GUI development is less about providing the nuts and bolts of molecular modeling, but instead focused on helping users to achieve a task, such as building a membrane system or solvating a protein, by providing a streamlined interface. This design principle helps us to think of the workflow critically when designing the interface, which leads CHARMM-GUI to be accessible to users with little experience in modeling tools and remains useful to experts, especially for batch generation of systems. CHARMM-GUI has been used by many researchers, and it is a well-recognized tool in the molecular modeling and simulation communities (see [Google Scholar Citations](#)).

The CHARMM-GUI development project is still ongoing. These functionalities are not only based on requests from general users and developers, but also on an emerging need for a unified platform to prepare and execute various advanced simulation approaches that have been developed and will be developed by many developers in diverse simulation communities and packages. CHARMM-GUI will continue to help expert and non-expert researchers from a broader range of the modeling and simulation community to build the complex molecular systems of their interest and prepare the input files for any general and advanced modeling and simulation through the large and unique scope of CHARMM-GUI functionality. It will also provide an effective one-stop online resource for the biomedical research community to carry out innovative and novel molecular modeling and simulation research.

Visit our [COVID-19 Archive](#) for collection of SARS-CoV-2 protein systems.  
Follow CHARMM-GUI on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CharmmGui>.

**Geographical Visitors**



Lehigh University / Department of Biological Sciences / Department of Chemistry / Department of Bioengineering / Im Lab  
Problems, Questions, & Comments? E-Mail / Forum / Copyright(c) 2006-2022 by the Im Lab



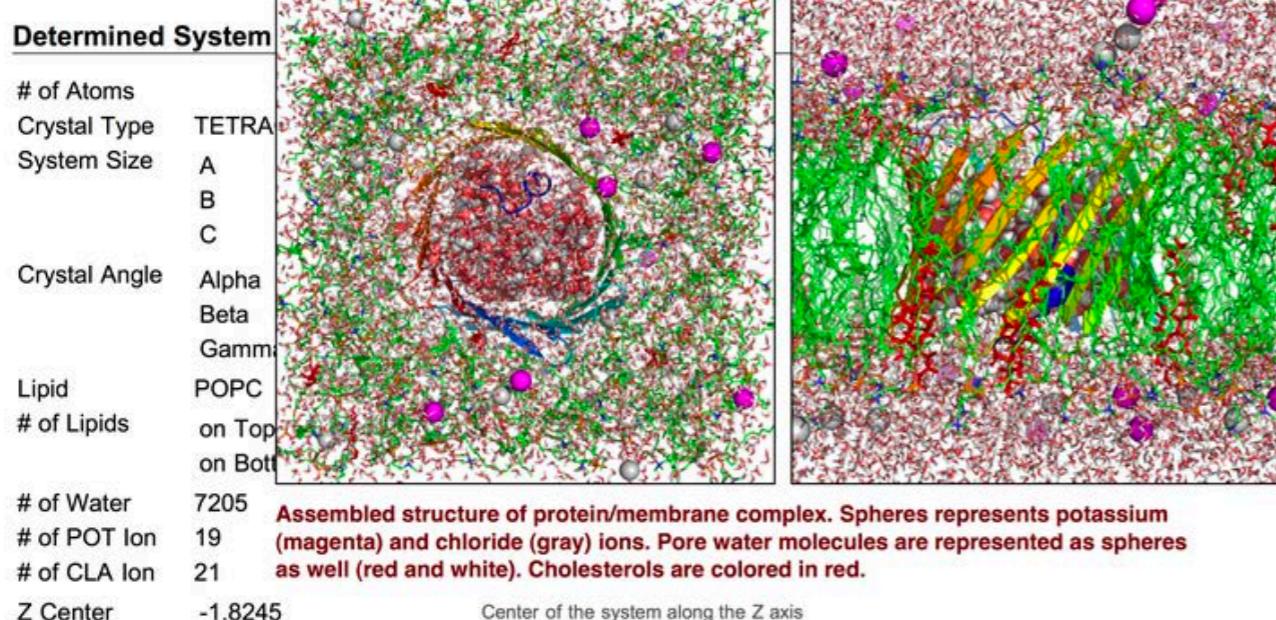
# A web-server to setup your system

## Membrane Builder

Bookmark this [link](#), if you want to comeback to this page

PDB Info STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3 STEP 4 STEP 5 STEP 6

Lipid PDB: [step4\\_lipid.pdb \(view structure\)](#) download .tgz  
Assembly Input: [step5\\_assembly.inp](#)  
Assembly Output: [step5\\_assembly.out](#)  
System Information: [step5\\_assembly.str](#)  
Assembled PSF: [step5\\_assembly.psf](#)  
XPLOR PSF: [step5\\_assembly.xplor.psf](#)  
Assembled CRD: [step5\\_assembly.crd](#)  
Assembled PDB: [step5\\_assembly.pdb \(view structure\)](#)



## Equilibration Options:

- Generate grid information for PME FFT automatically  
 Explicit grid information for PME FFT

X Y Z

- NPAT ensemble  
 NPGT ensemble

Surface Tension:  (dyne/cm)

Temperature:  K



# A web-server to setup your system

## Membrane Builder

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PDB Info STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3 STEP 4 STEP 5 STEP 6

Lipid PDB: [step4\\_lipid.pdb \(view structure\)](#) download .tgz  
Assembly Input: [step5\\_assembly.inp](#)  
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Assembled PSF: [step5\\_assembly.psf](#)  
XPLOR PSF: [step5\\_assembly.xplor.psf](#)  
Assembled CRD: [step5\\_assembly.crd](#)  
Assembled PDB: [step5\\_assembly.pdb \(view structure\)](#)

**Determined System**

# of Atoms	TETRA
Crystal Type	A
System Size	B
C	
Crystal Angle	Alpha
Beta	
Gamma	
Lipid	POPC
# of Lipids	on Top
	on Bott
# of Water	7205
# of POT Ion	19
# of CLA Ion	21
Z Center	-1.8245

Assembled structure of protein/membrane complex. Spheres represent potassium (magenta) and chloride (gray) ions. Pore water molecules are represented as spheres as well (red and white). Cholesterols are colored in red.

Center of the system along the Z axis

**Equilibration Options:**

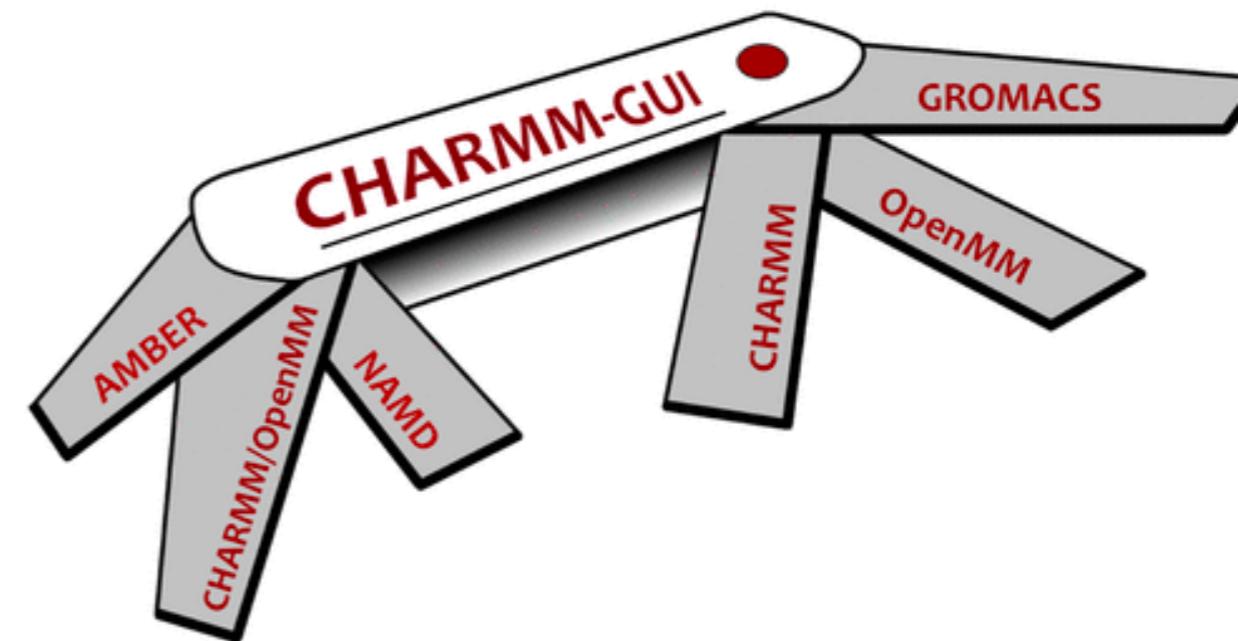
Generate grid information for PME FFT automatically  
 Explicit grid information for PME FFT

X Y Z

NPAT ensemble  
 NPGT ensemble

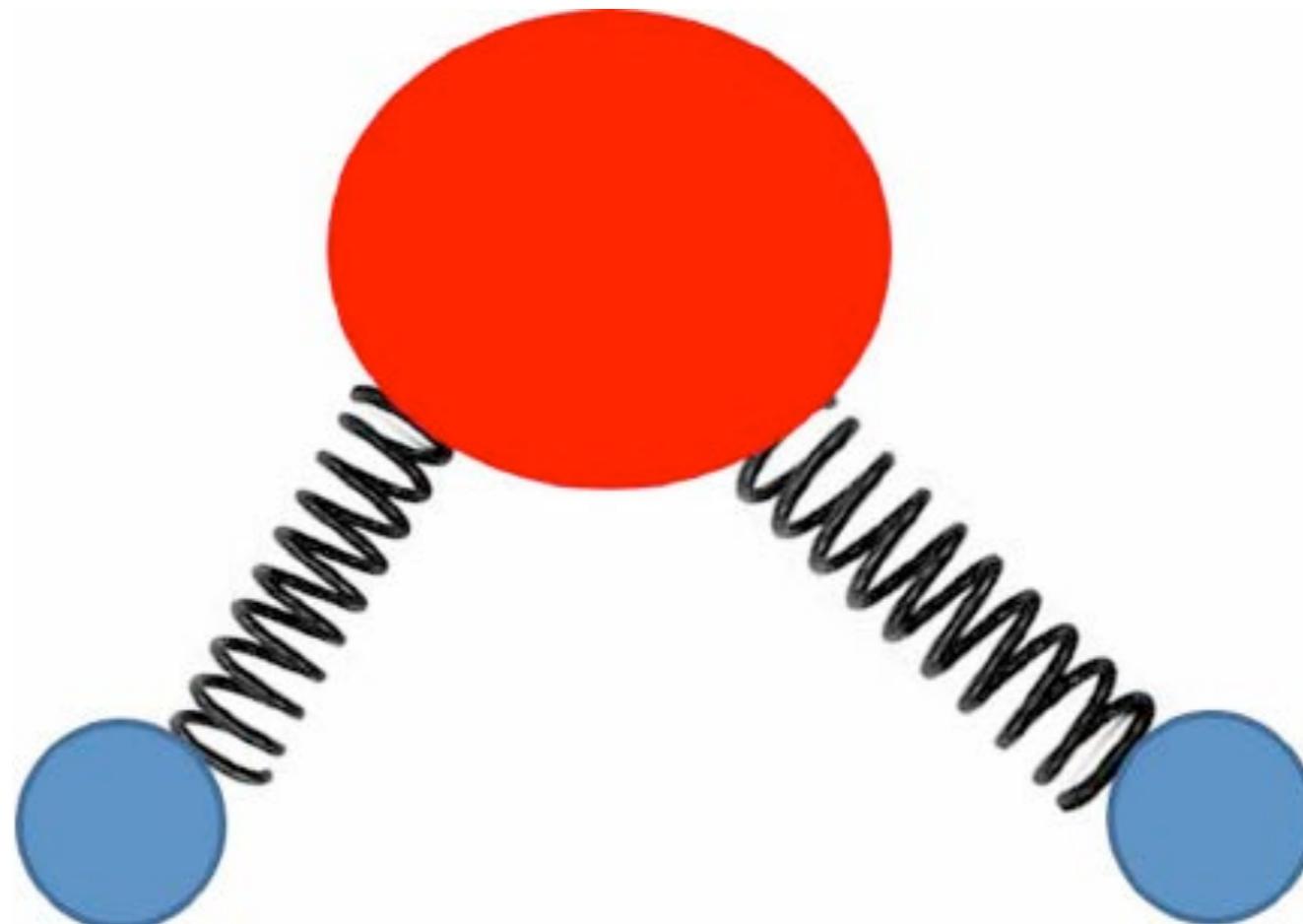
Surface Tension:  (dyne/cm)

Temperature:  K



# MD simulations is based on classical mechanic

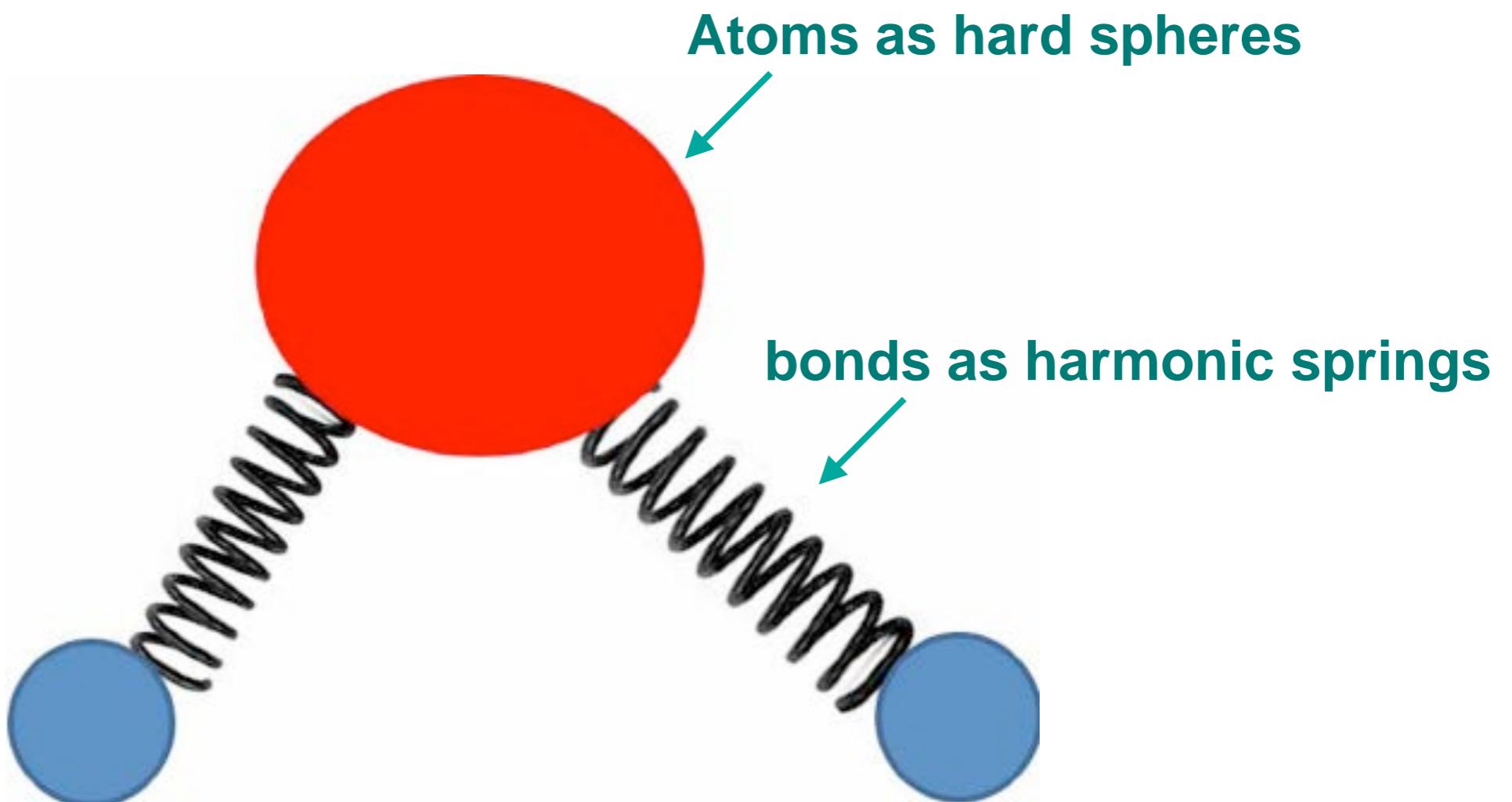
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Priya et al, Biomedical Image Analysis and Mining  
Techniques for Improved Health Outcomes, 2016

# MD simulations is based on classical mechanic

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Priya et al, Biomedical Image Analysis and Mining  
Techniques for Improved Health Outcomes, 2016

# MD simulations: different levels of description

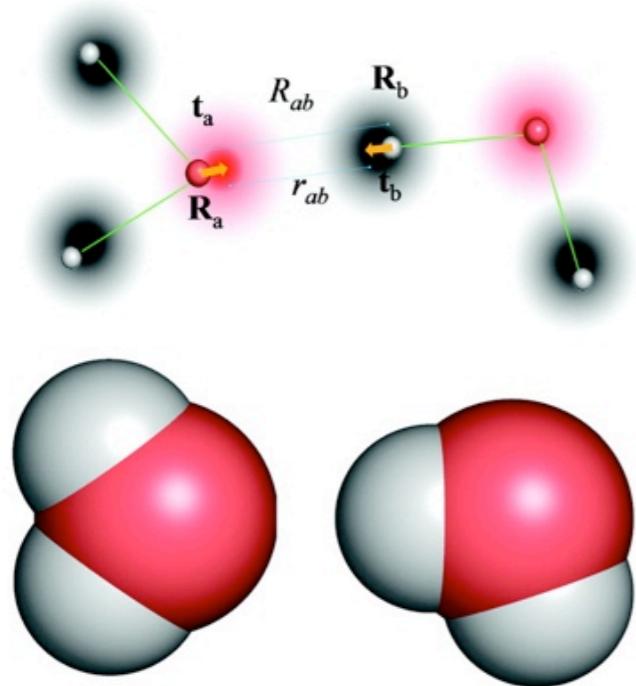
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# MD simulations: different levels of description

## Quantum mechanics

$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi(\mathbf{r}) + V(r) \Psi(\mathbf{r}) = E \Psi(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\text{Kinetic Energy} + \text{Potential Energy} = \text{Total Energy}$$



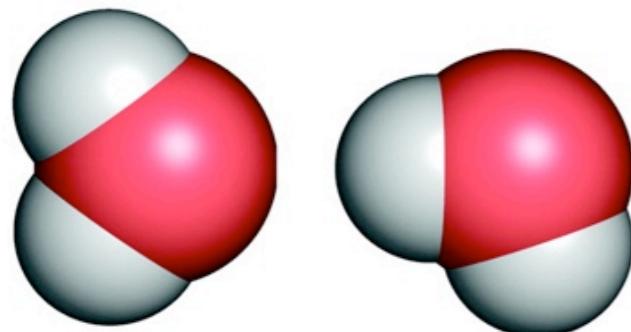
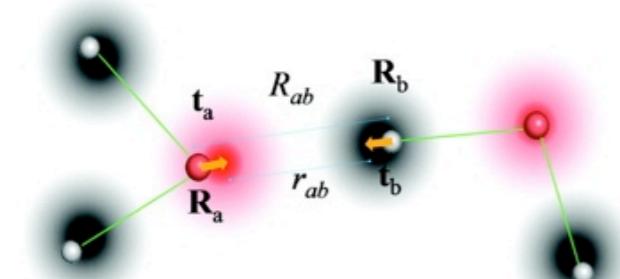
Donchev, PNAS, 2005

# MD simulations: different levels of description

## Quantum mechanics

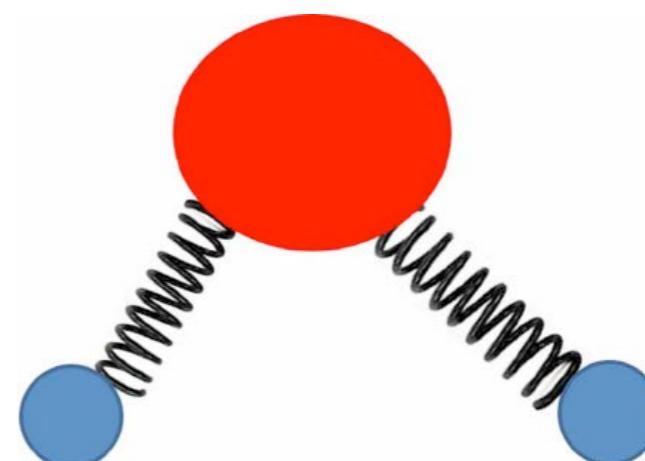
$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi(r) + V(r)\Psi(r) = E\Psi(r)$$

$$\text{Kinetic Energy} + \text{Potential Energy} = \text{Total Energy}$$



Donchev, PNAS, 2005

Priya et al, Biomedical Image Analysis and Mining Techniques for Improved Health Outcomes, 2016



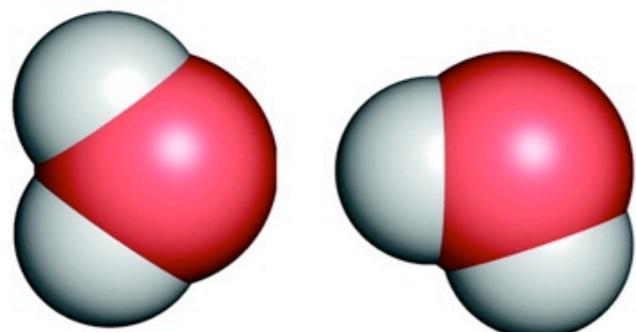
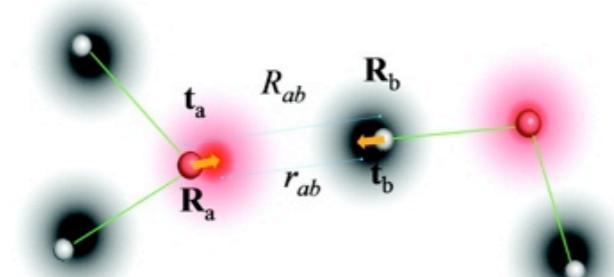
Classical potential energy function:  
Molecular mechanic (MM)

# MD simulations: different levels of description

## Quantum mechanics

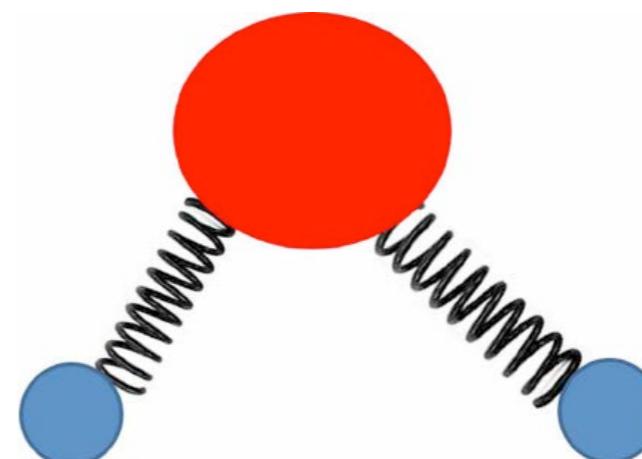
$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi(r) + V(r)\Psi(r) = E\Psi(r)$$

$$\text{Kinetic Energy} + \text{Potential Energy} = \text{Total Energy}$$

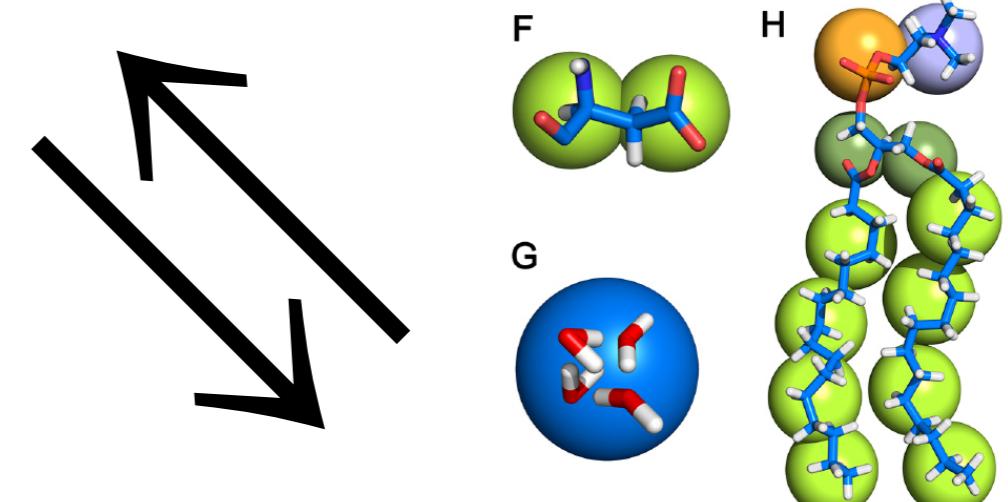


Donchev, PNAS, 2005

Priya et al, Biomedical Image Analysis and Mining Techniques for Improved Health Outcomes, 2016



Classical potential energy function:  
Molecular mechanic (MM)



Pluhackova & Böckmann, J Phys, 2015

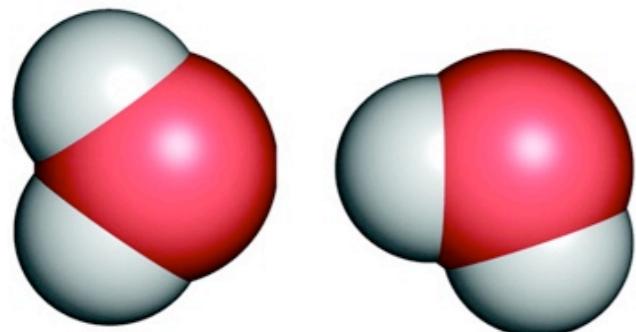
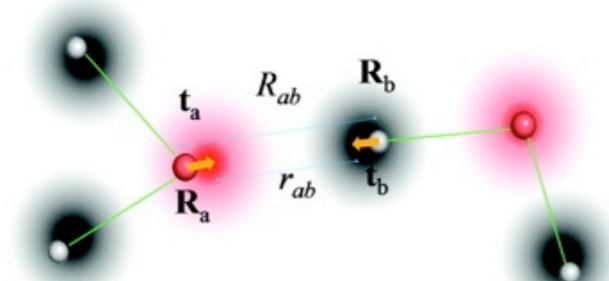
Coarse-grained modelling

# MD simulations: different levels of description

Quantum mechanics

$$\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi(r) + V(r)\Psi(r) = E\Psi(r)$$

$$\text{Kinetic Energy} + \text{Potential Energy} = \text{Total Energy}$$

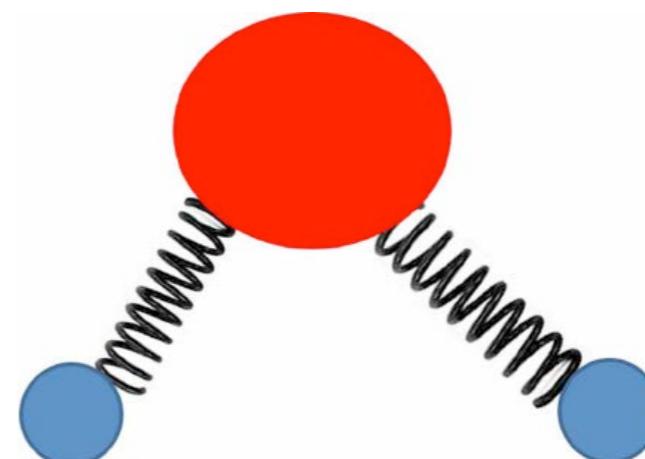


Donchev, PNAS, 2005

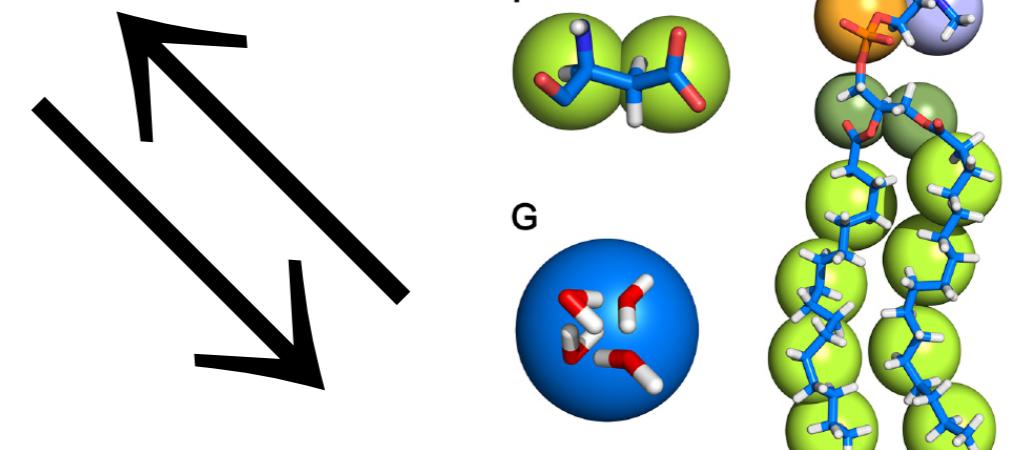
Combining is possible (multi-scaling)

Like QM and classical (QM/MM)

Priya et al, Biomedical Image Analysis and Mining Techniques for Improved Health Outcomes, 2016



Classical potential energy function:  
Molecular mechanic (MM)



Pluhackova & Böckmann, J Phys, 2015

Coarse-grained modelling

# Applications in molecular membrane biology

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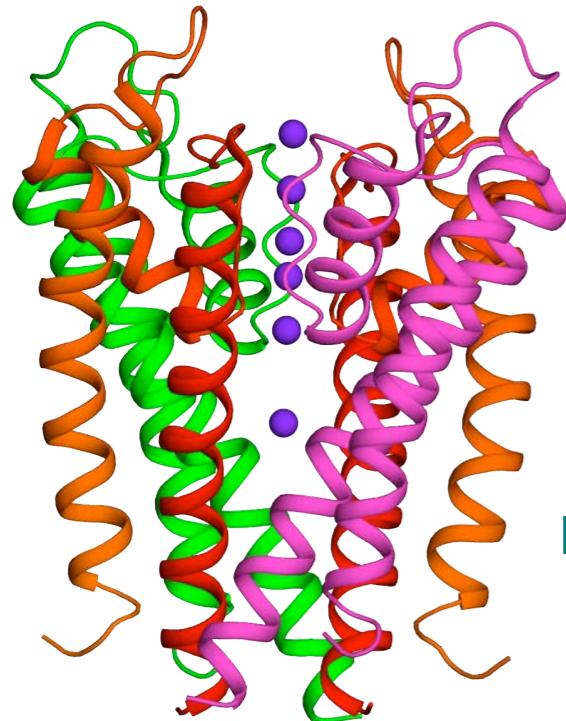
Ion/substrate binding

Protein-lipid interaction

Conformational change

Protein-protein interaction  
Post-translational  
modifications

# Applications in molecular membrane biology



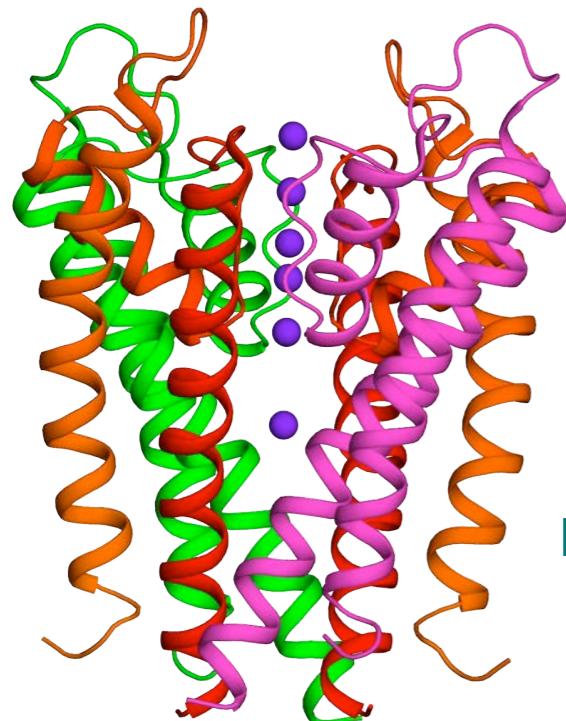
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# Applications in molecular membrane biology

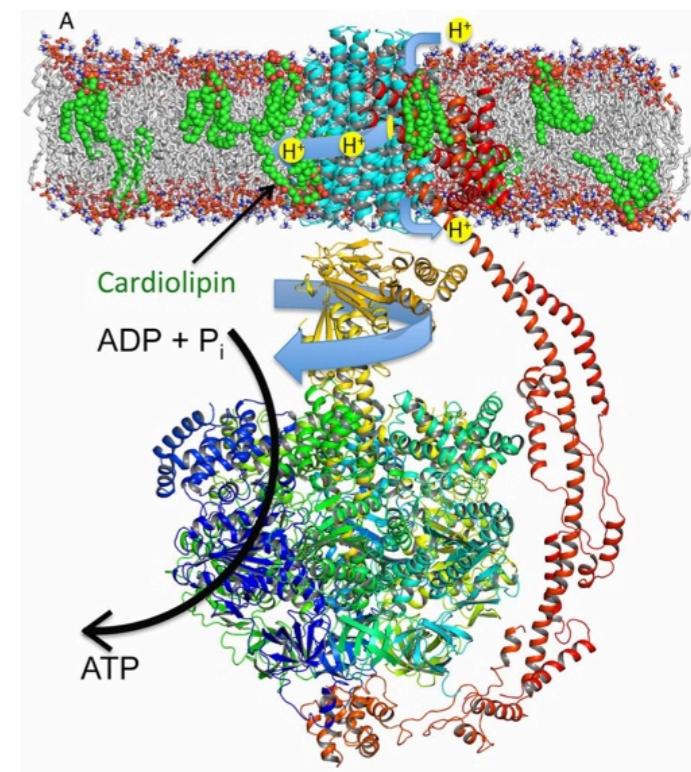


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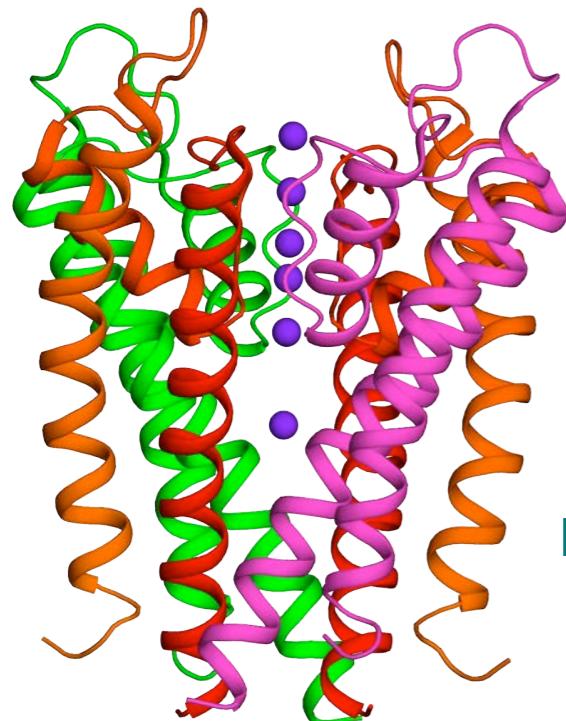
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# Applications in molecular membrane biology

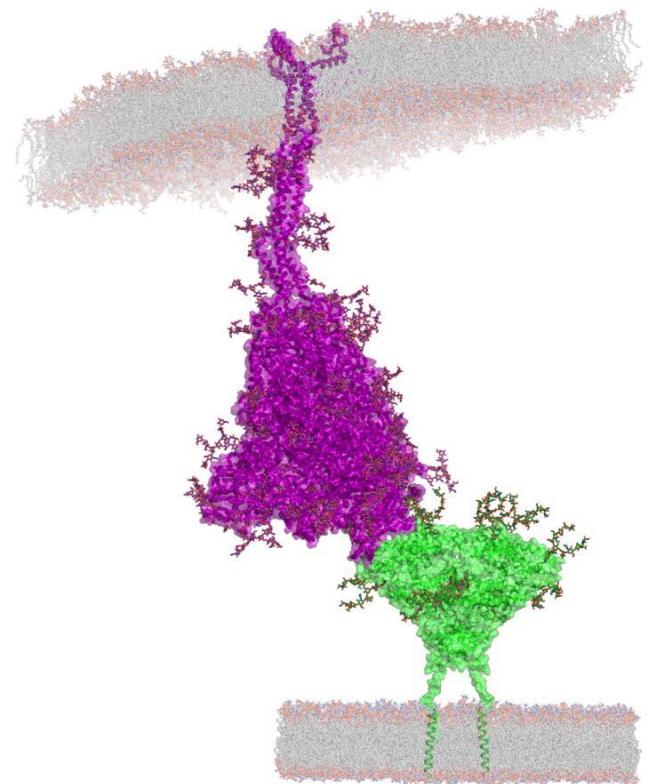
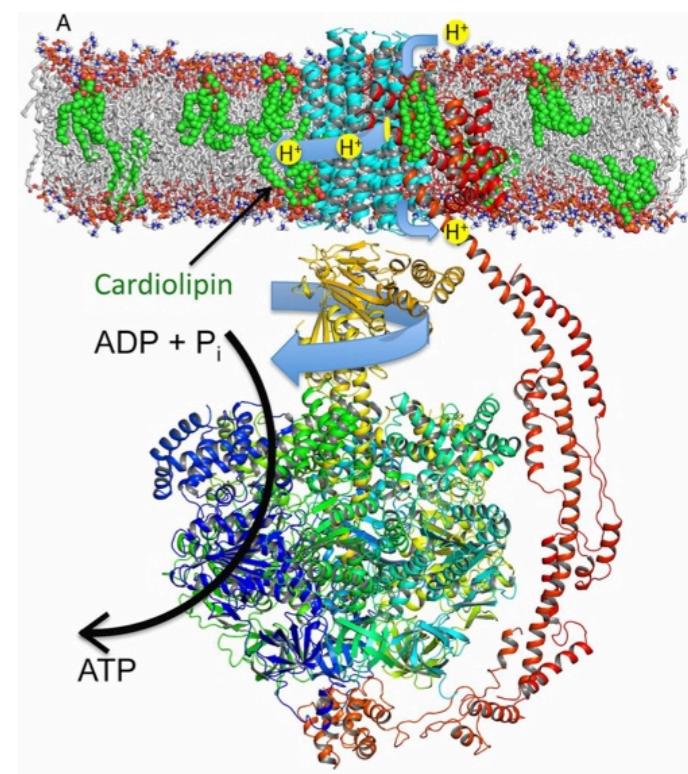


Ion/substrate binding

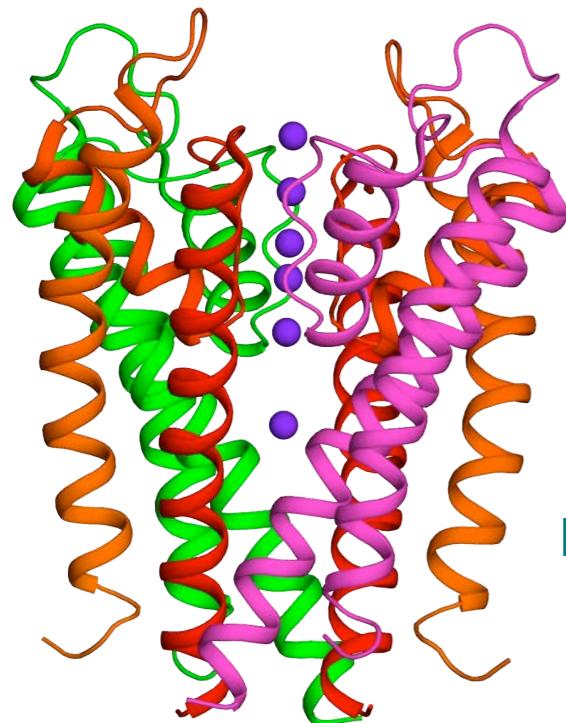
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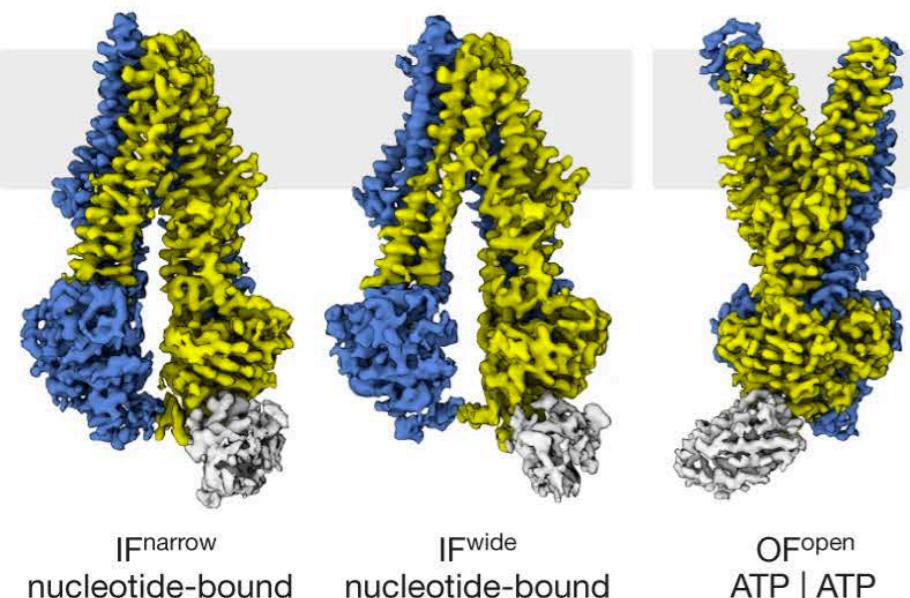


# Applications in molecular membrane biology



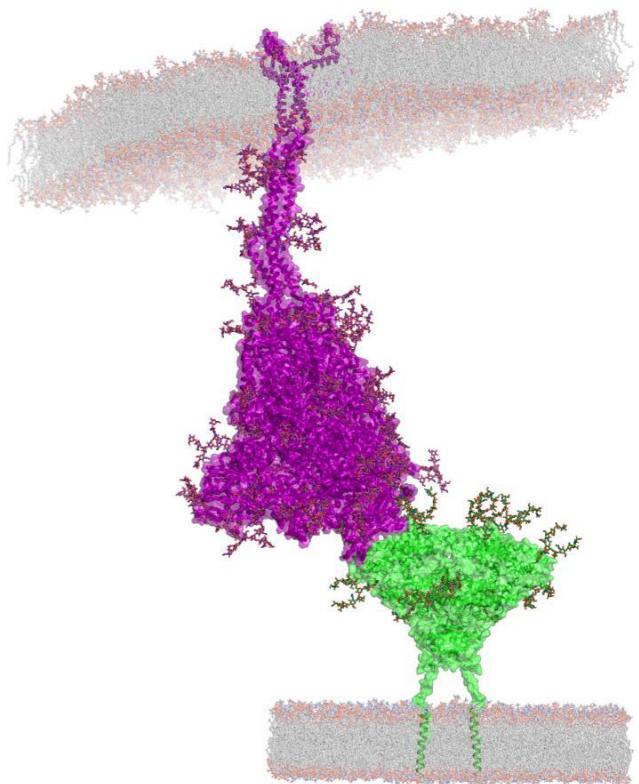
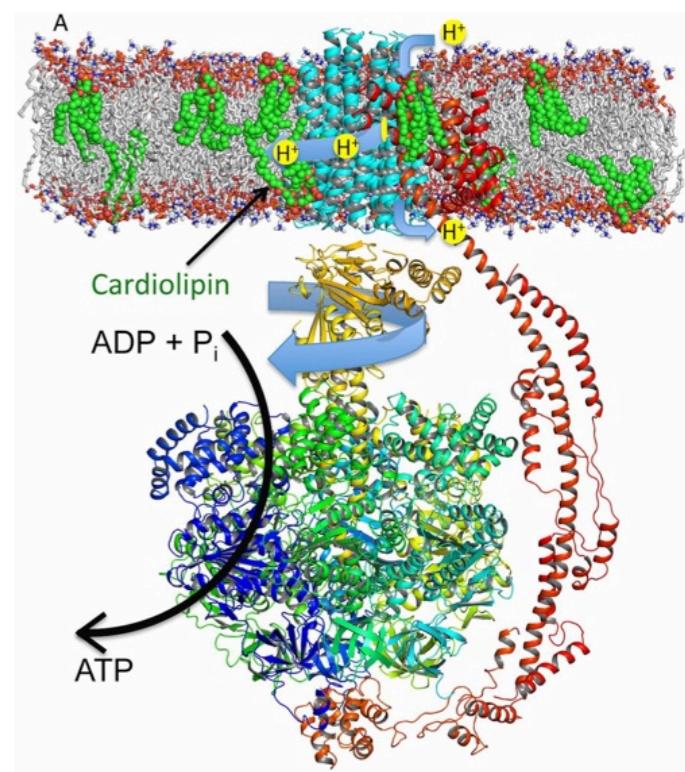
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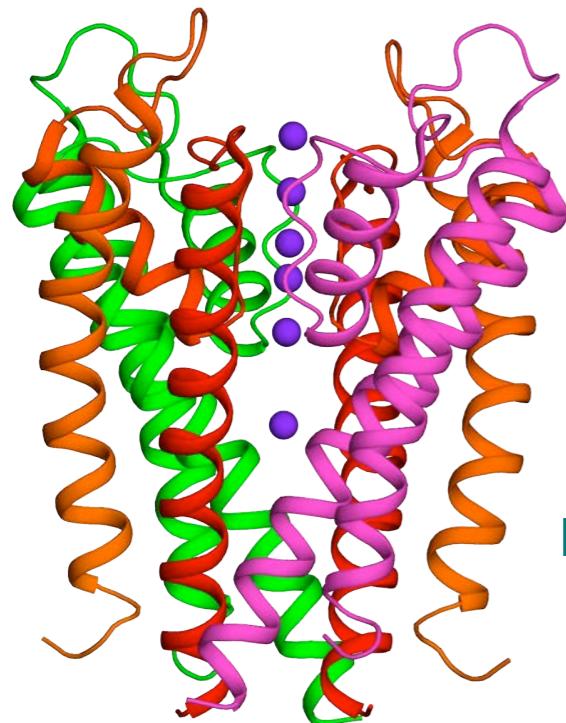


Protein-lipid interaction

Protein-protein interaction  
Post-translational  
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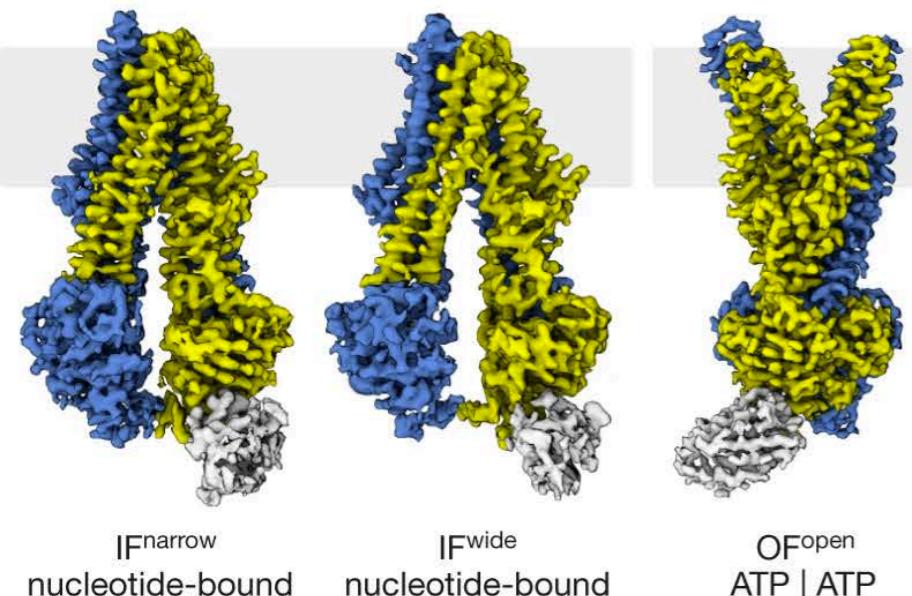


# Applications in molecular membrane biology



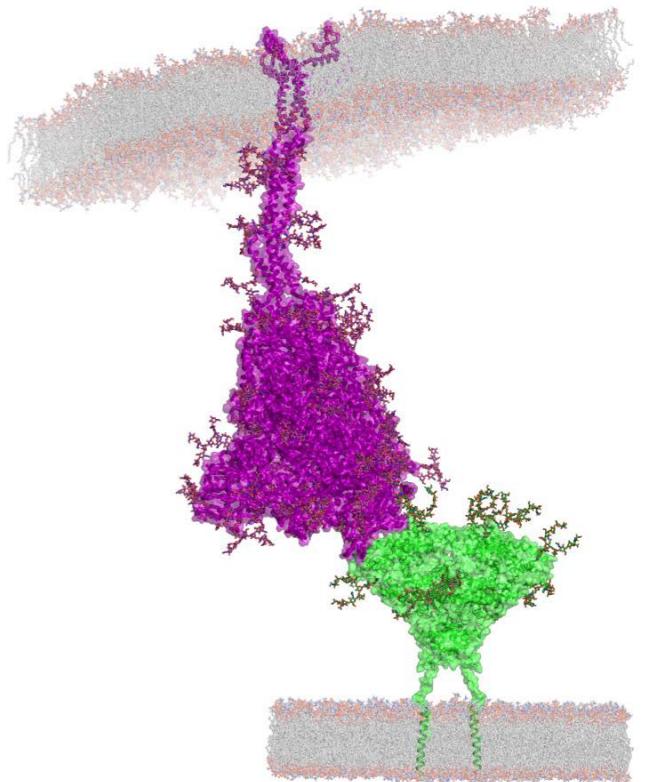
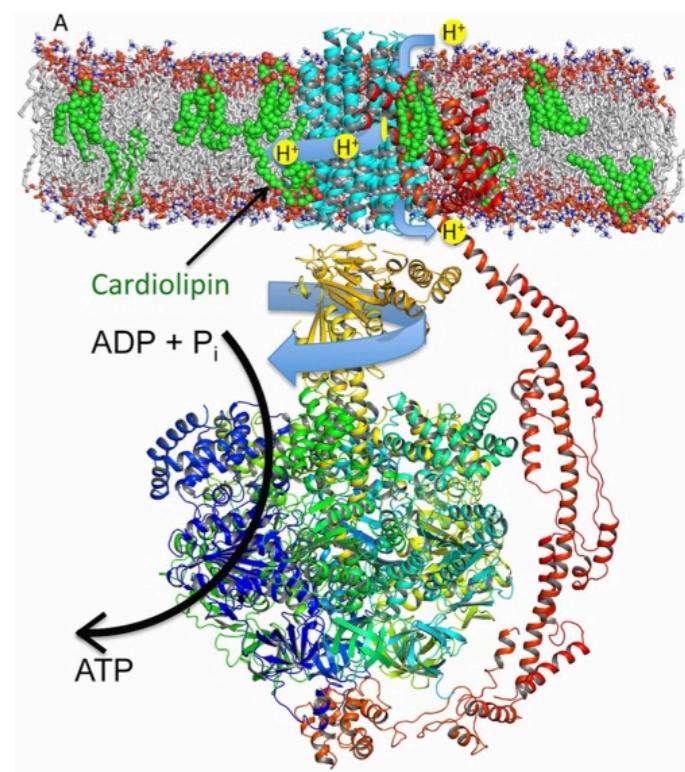
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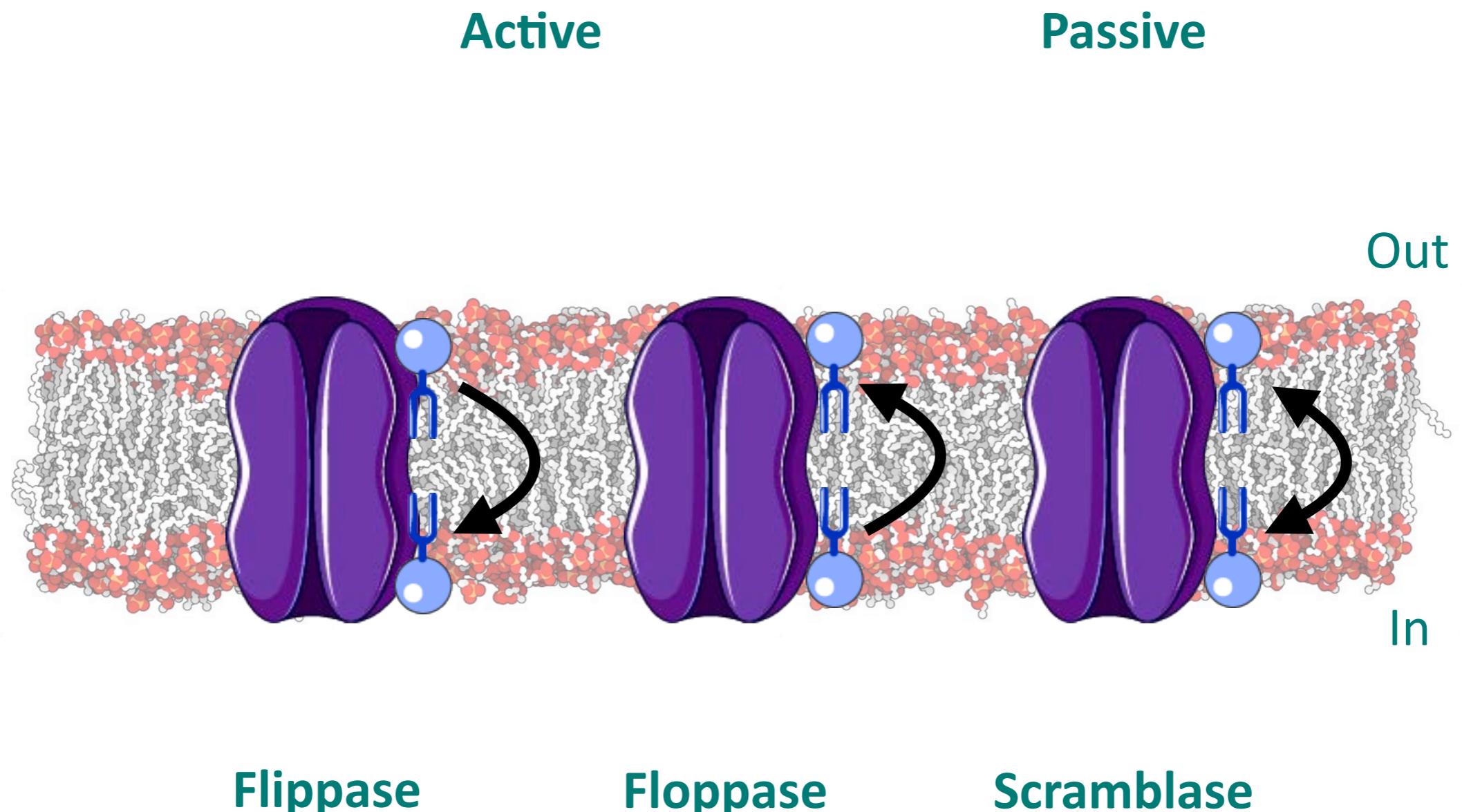


Protein-lipid interaction

Protein-protein interaction  
Post-translational  
modifications



# Lipid movement across biological membranes



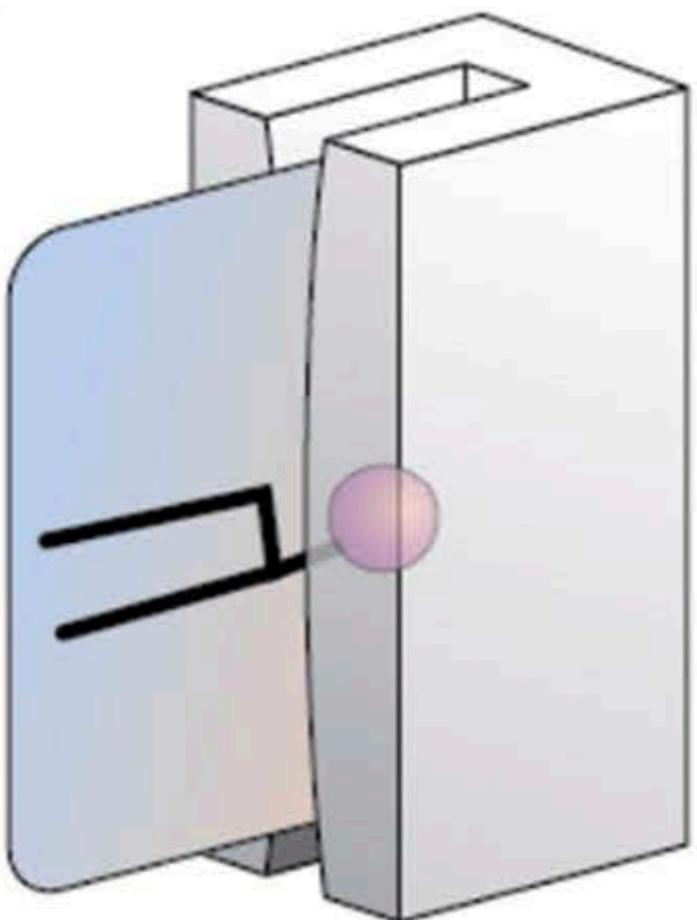
# Mechanisms of Flipping lipids

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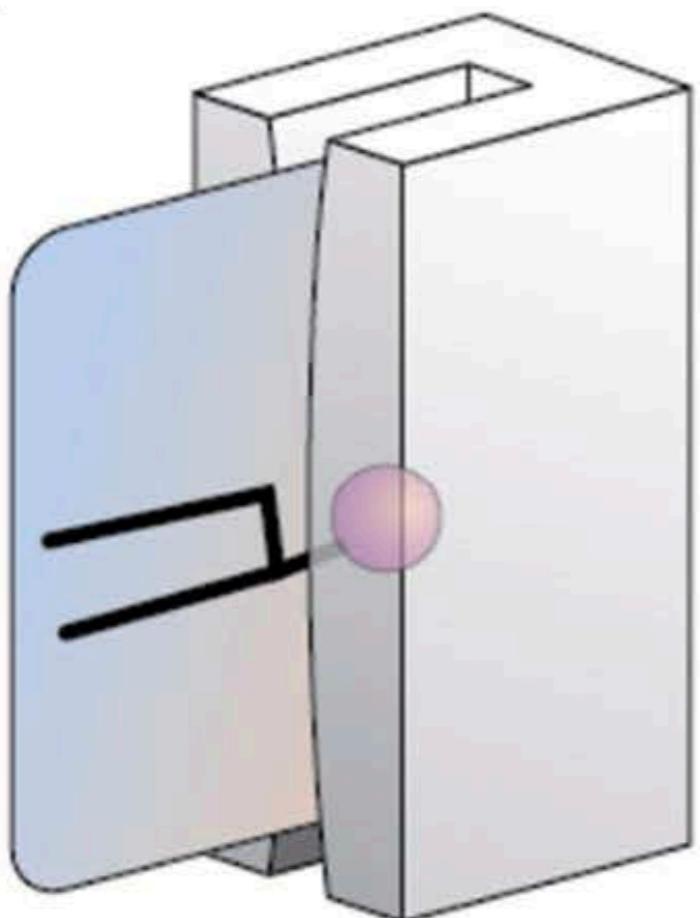
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## Credit card

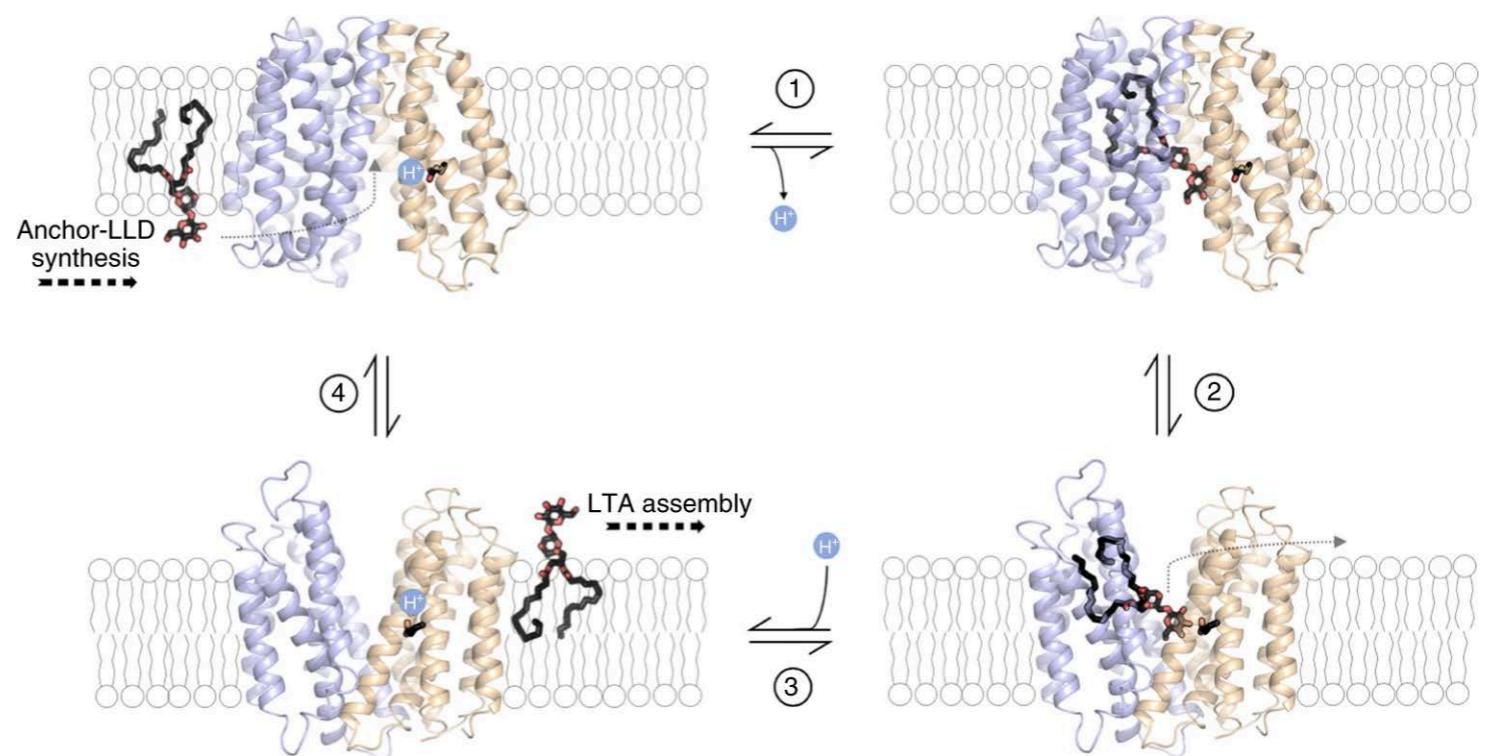


# Mechanisms of Flipping lipids

Credit card



Trap-and-flip



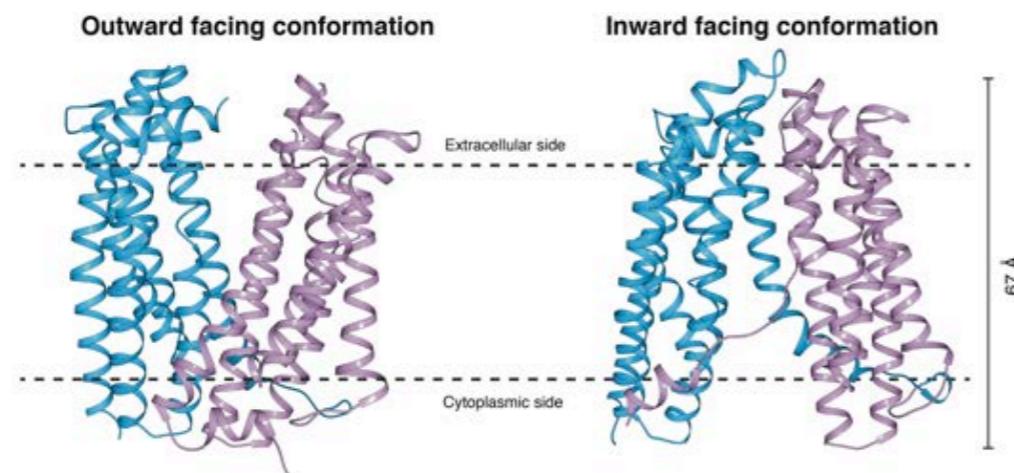


# PfMATE



Hartmut Michel

Sandra Zakrzewska



Zakrzewska, Mehdipour, ..., Hummer, Safarian, Michel. PNAS, 2019

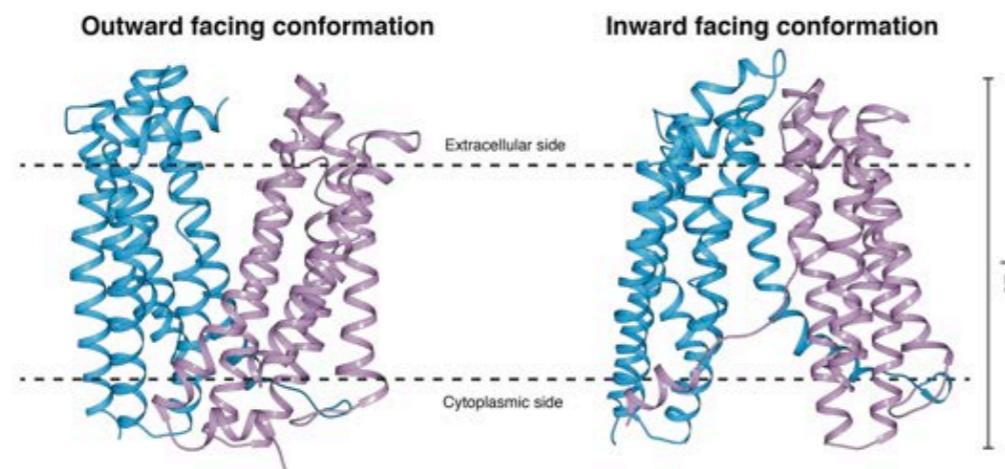
Ahmad Reza Mehdipour



# PfMATE

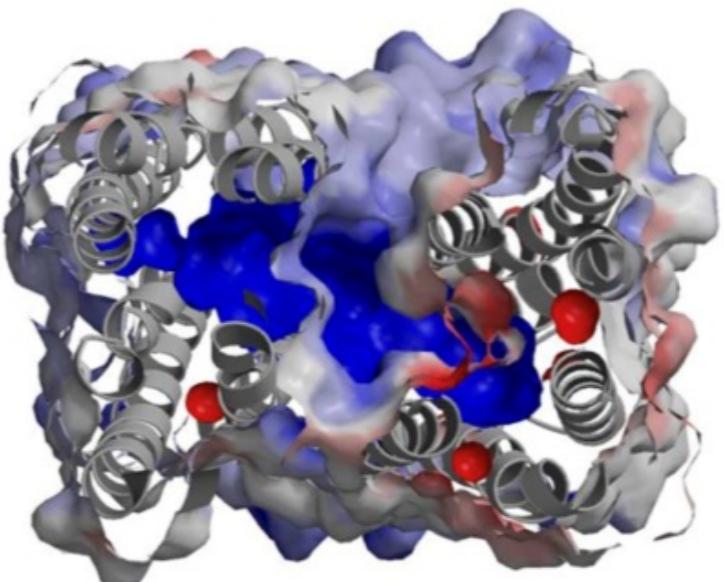


Hartmut Michel

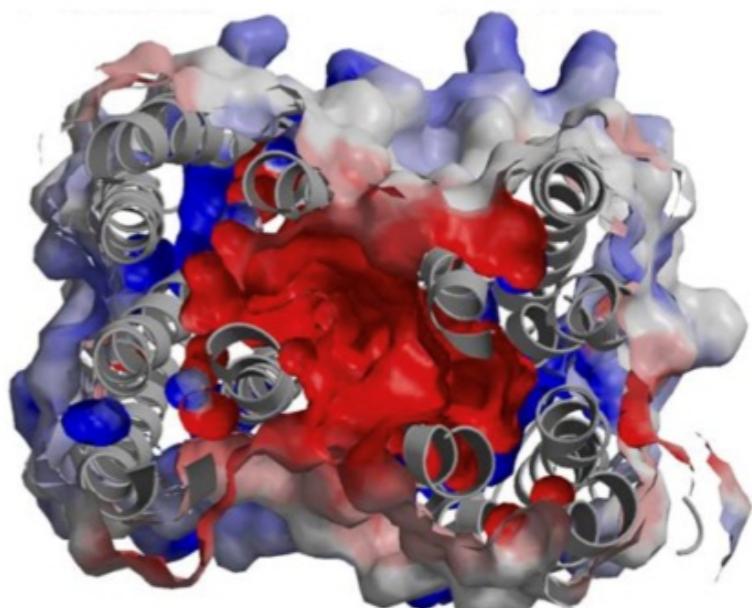


Sandra Zakrzewska

PfMATE (OFC)



NorM\_VC



Zakrzewska, Mehdipour, ..., Hummer, Safarian, Michel. PNAS, 2019

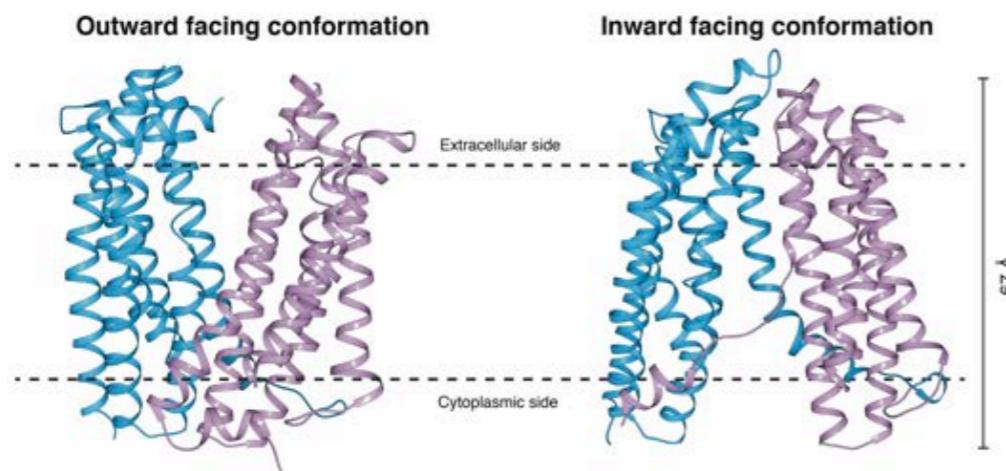
Ahmad Reza Mehdipour



# PfMATE

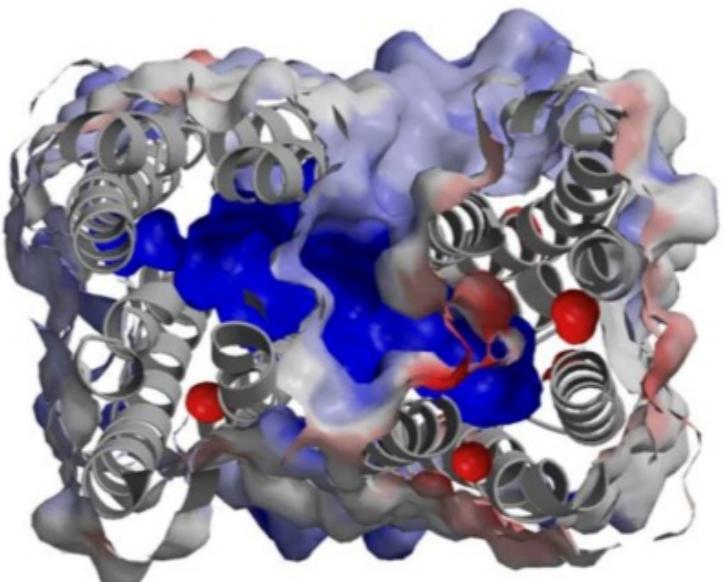


Hartmut Michel

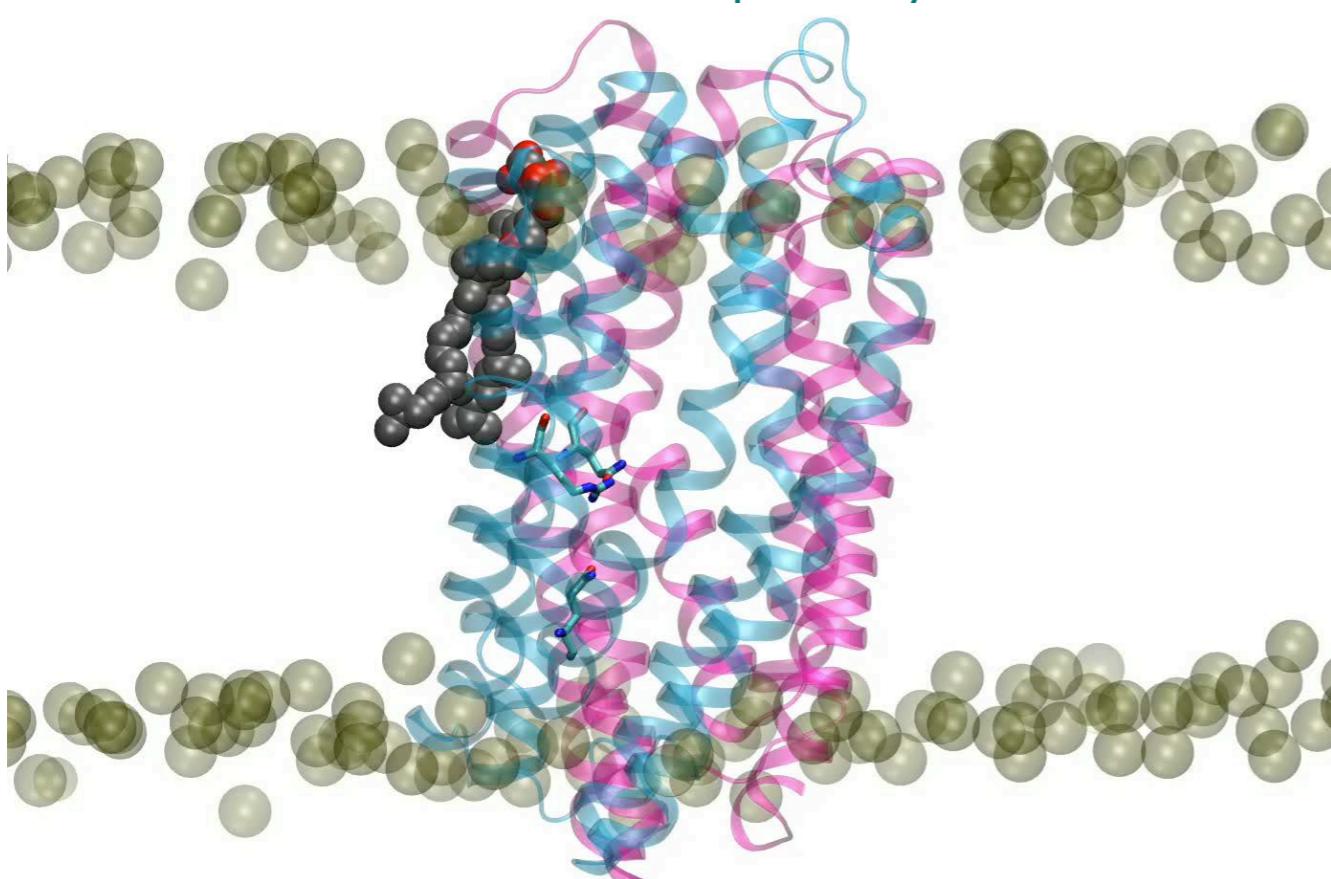
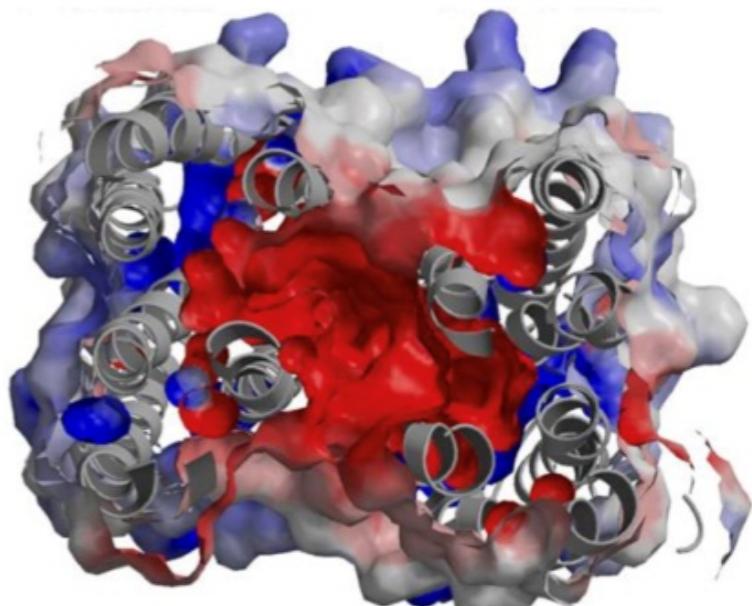


Sandra Zakrzewska

PfMATE (OFC)



NorM\_VC



1.5  $\mu$ s all-atom simulation of MATE transporter  
in an archaeal lipid bilayer

Zakrzewska, Mehdipour, ..., Hummer, Safarian, Michel. PNAS, 2019

Ahmad Reza Mehdipour

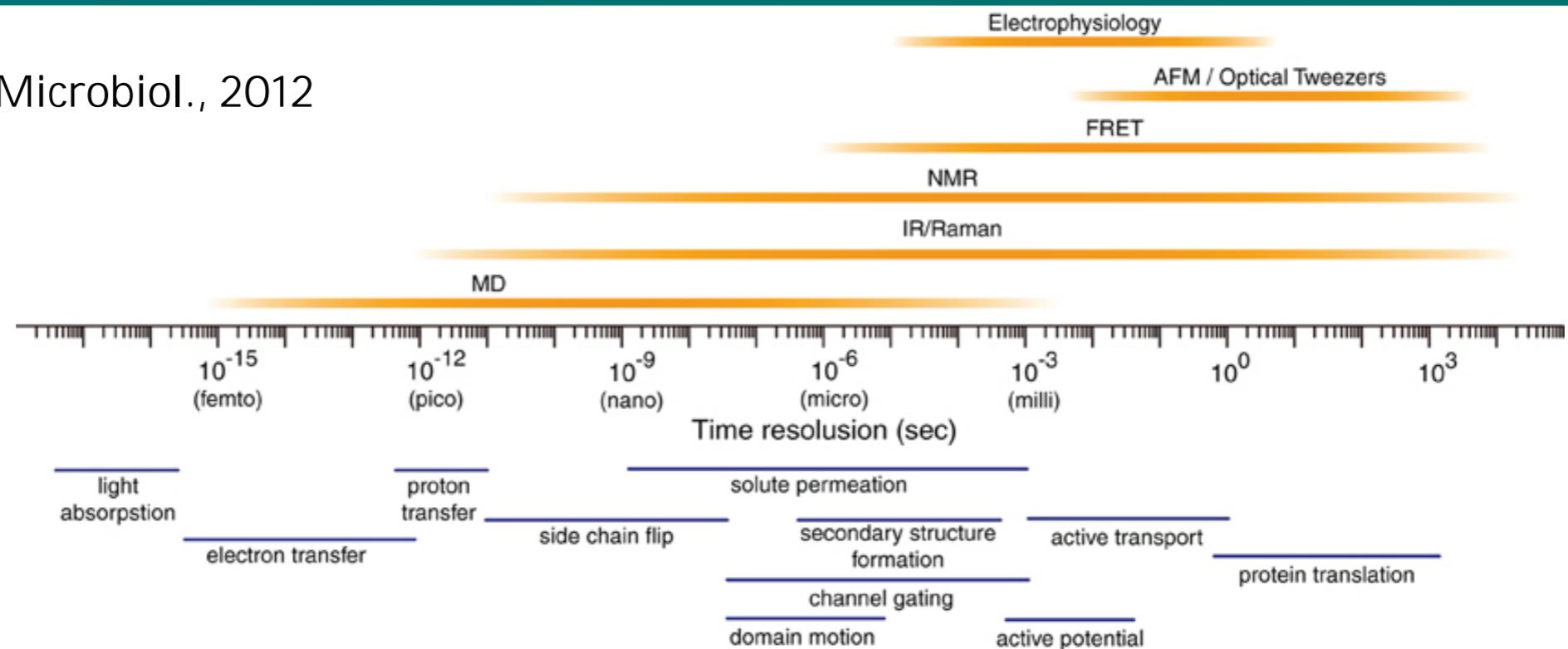
# Outline

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- ⚡ Theoretical Biophysics
- ⚡ Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations
- ⚡ Applications of MD simulations in membrane biology
  - ⚡ Protein-lipid interaction: lipid flippase
- ⚡ Advanced methods
- ⚡ Future directions

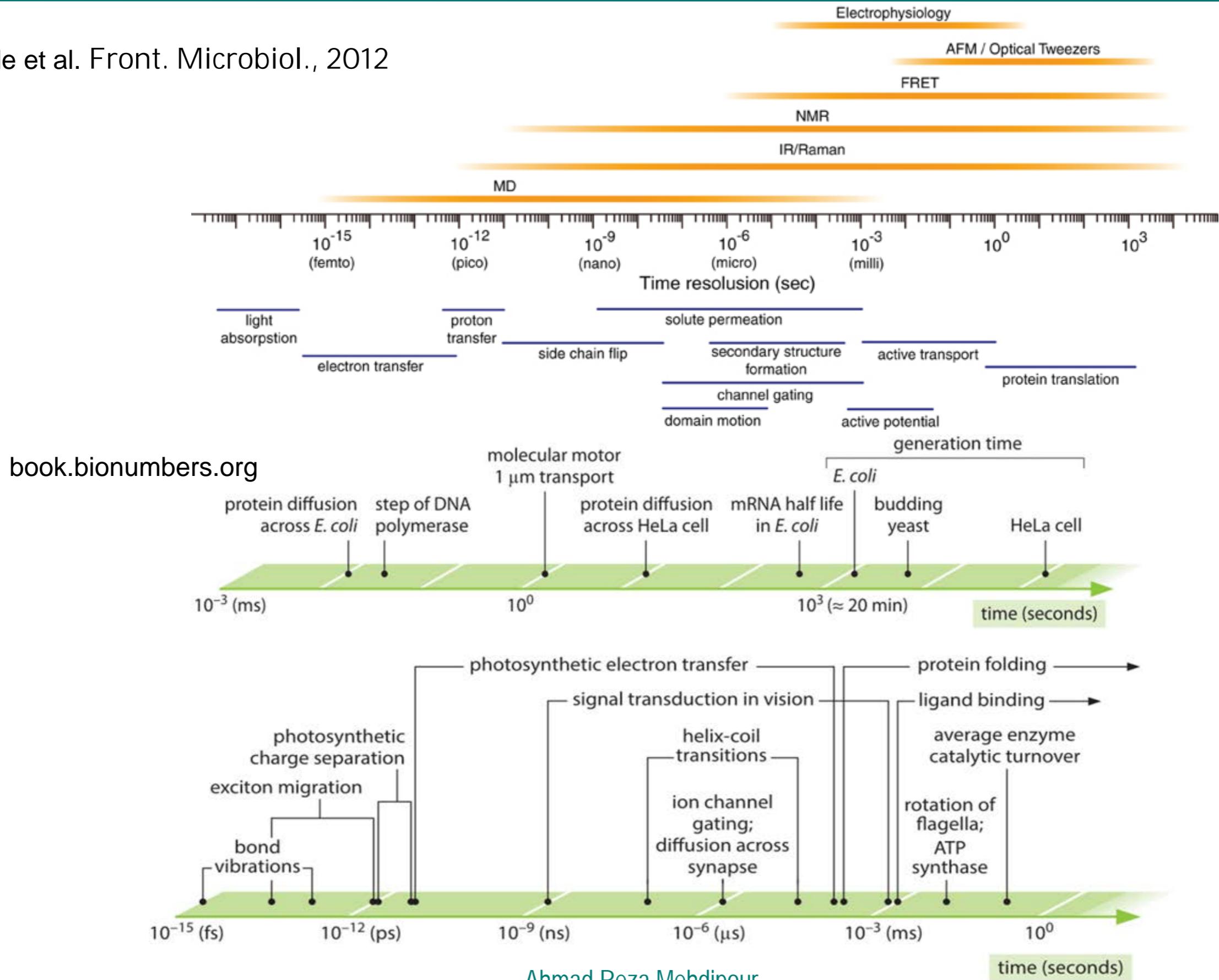
# Time scale problem

Ode et al. Front. Microbiol., 2012



# Time scale problem

Ode et al. Front. Microbiol., 2012



# Time scale problem: solutions

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# Time scale problem: solutions

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## Solutions

# Time scale problem: solutions

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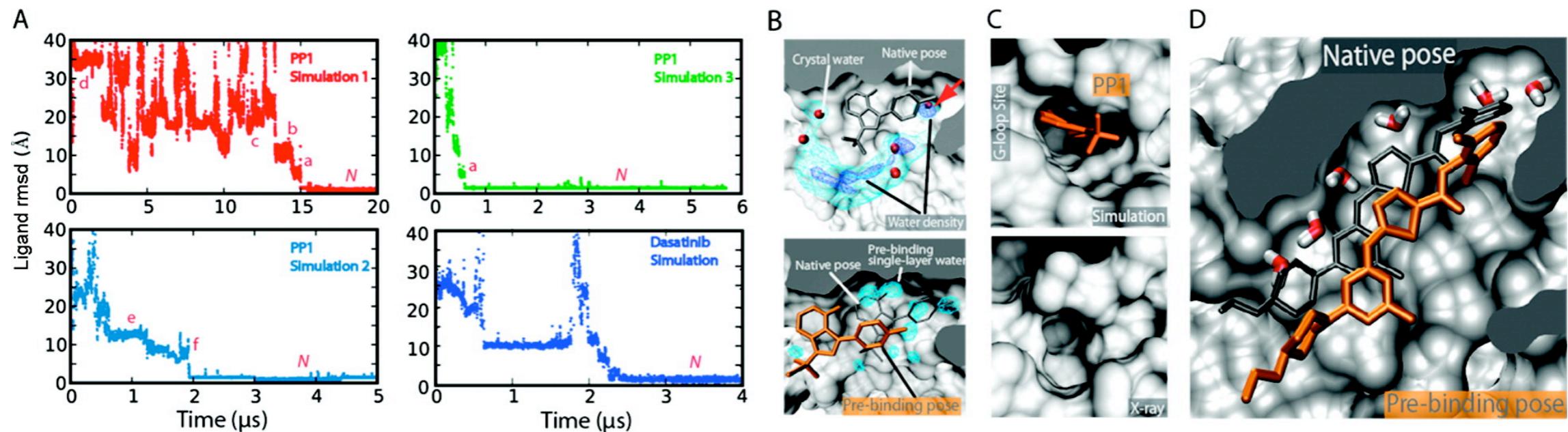
## Solutions

- ★ Specialised MD supercomputers: Anton

# Time scale problem: solutions

## Solutions

★ Specialised MD supercomputers: Anton



# Time scale problem: solutions

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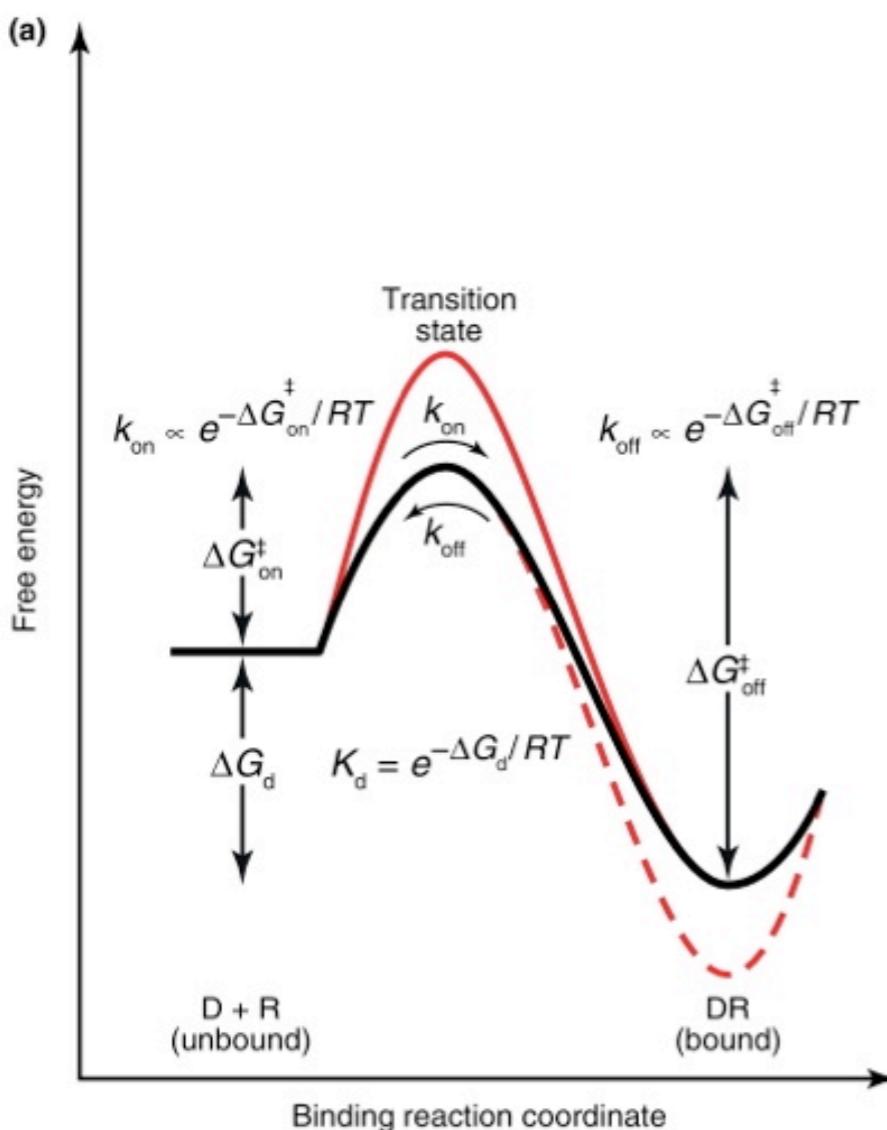
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# Time scale problem: solutions

## Solutions

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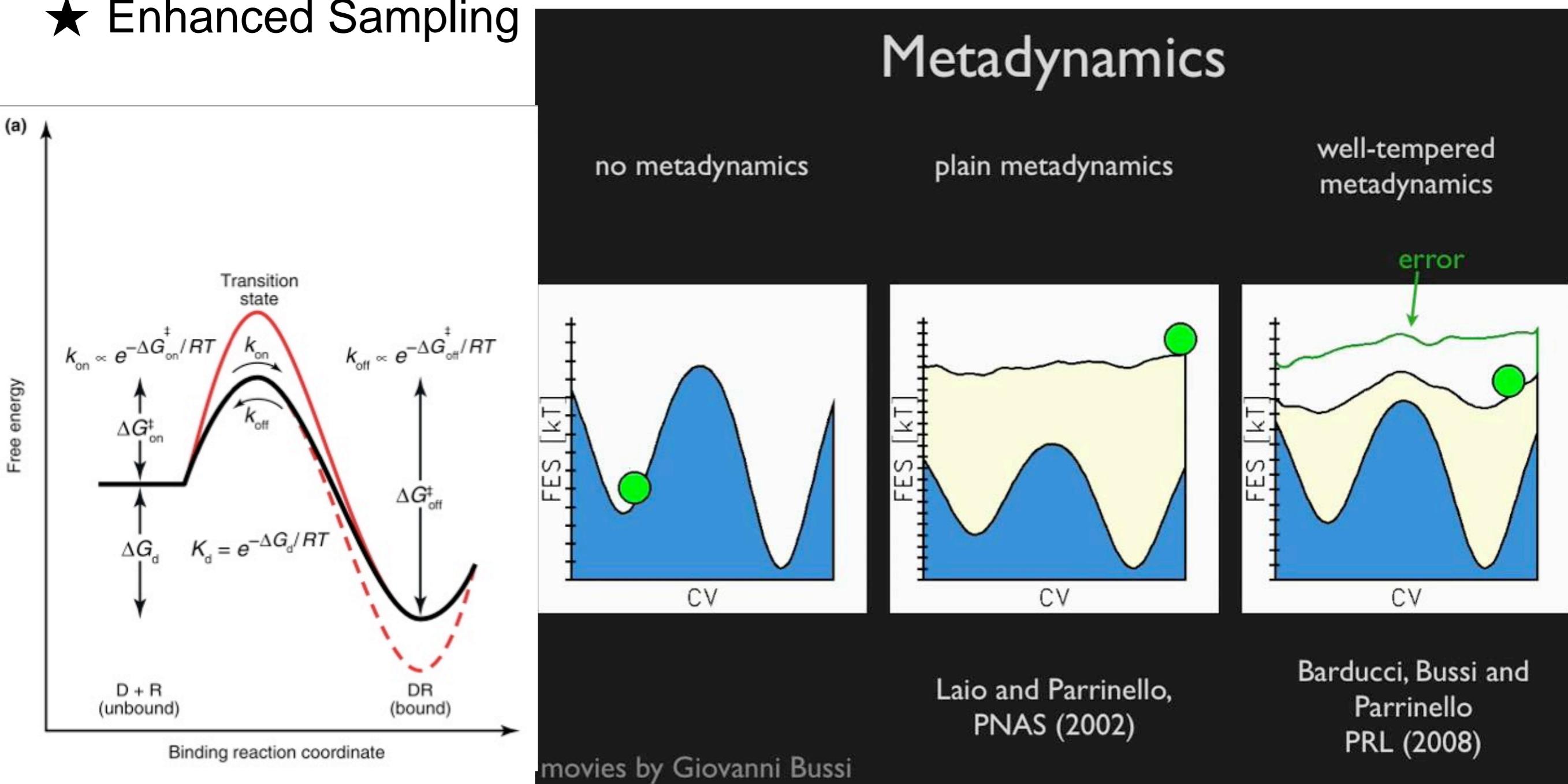


# Time scale problem: solutions

## Solutions

★ Specialised MD supercomputers: Anton

★ Enhanced Sampling



# Outline

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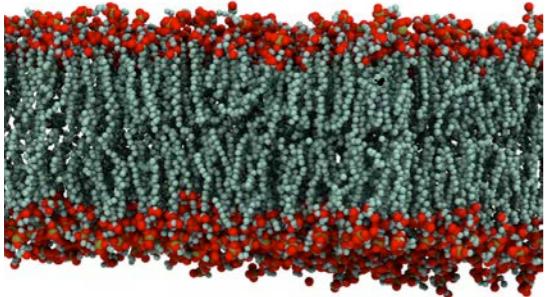
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  - Protein-lipid interaction: lipid flippase
- Advanced methods
- Future directions

# Future: from molecular biology to cell biology

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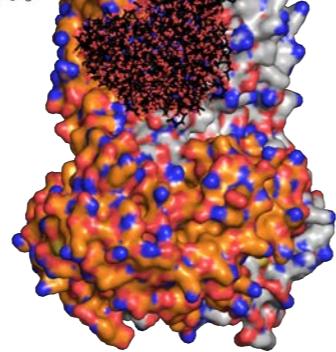
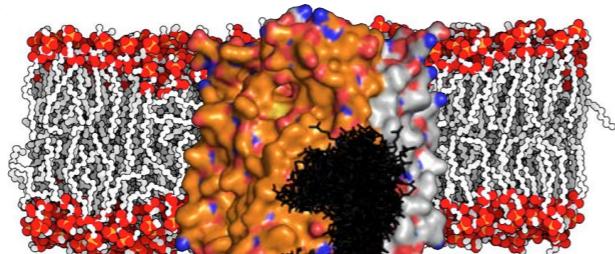
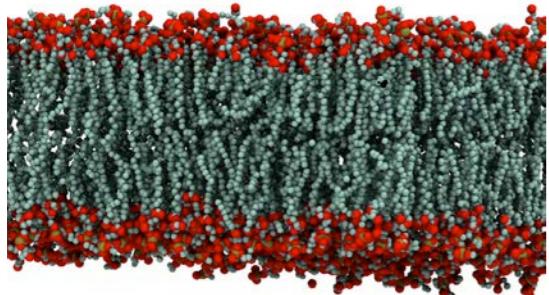
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$10 \times 10 \times 14 \text{ nm}$   
 $\sim 100,000 \text{ Atoms}$

# Future: from molecular biology to cell biology

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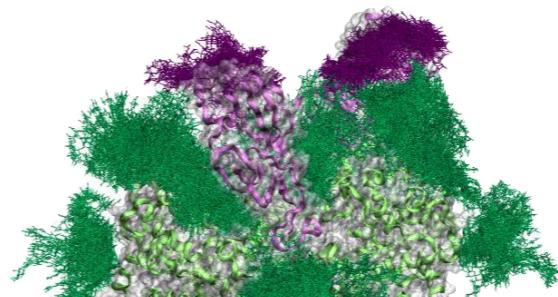
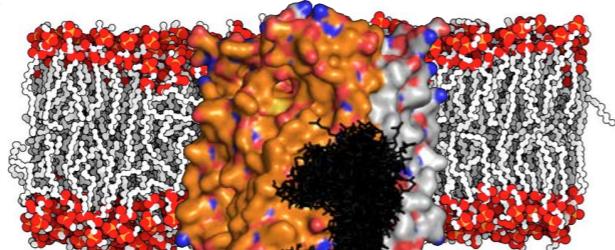
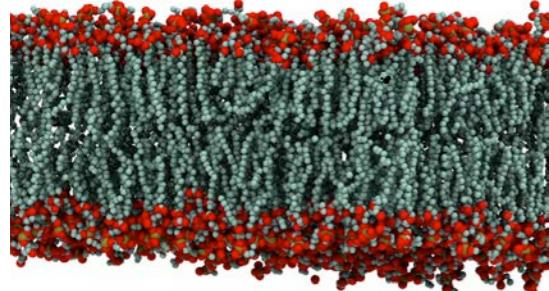


$10 \times 10 \times 14 \text{ nm}$   
 $\sim 100,000 \text{ Atoms}$

$14 \times 14 \times 16 \text{ nm}$   
 $\sim 280,000 \text{ Atoms}$

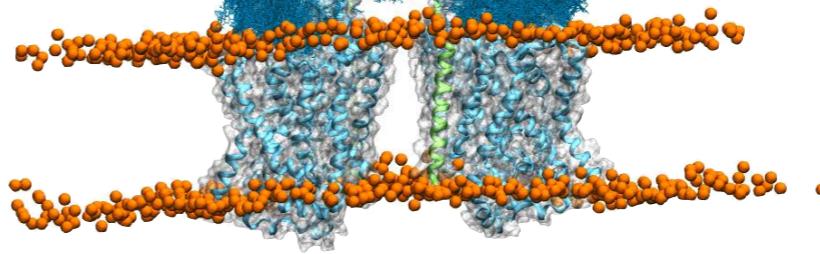
# Future: from molecular biology to cell biology

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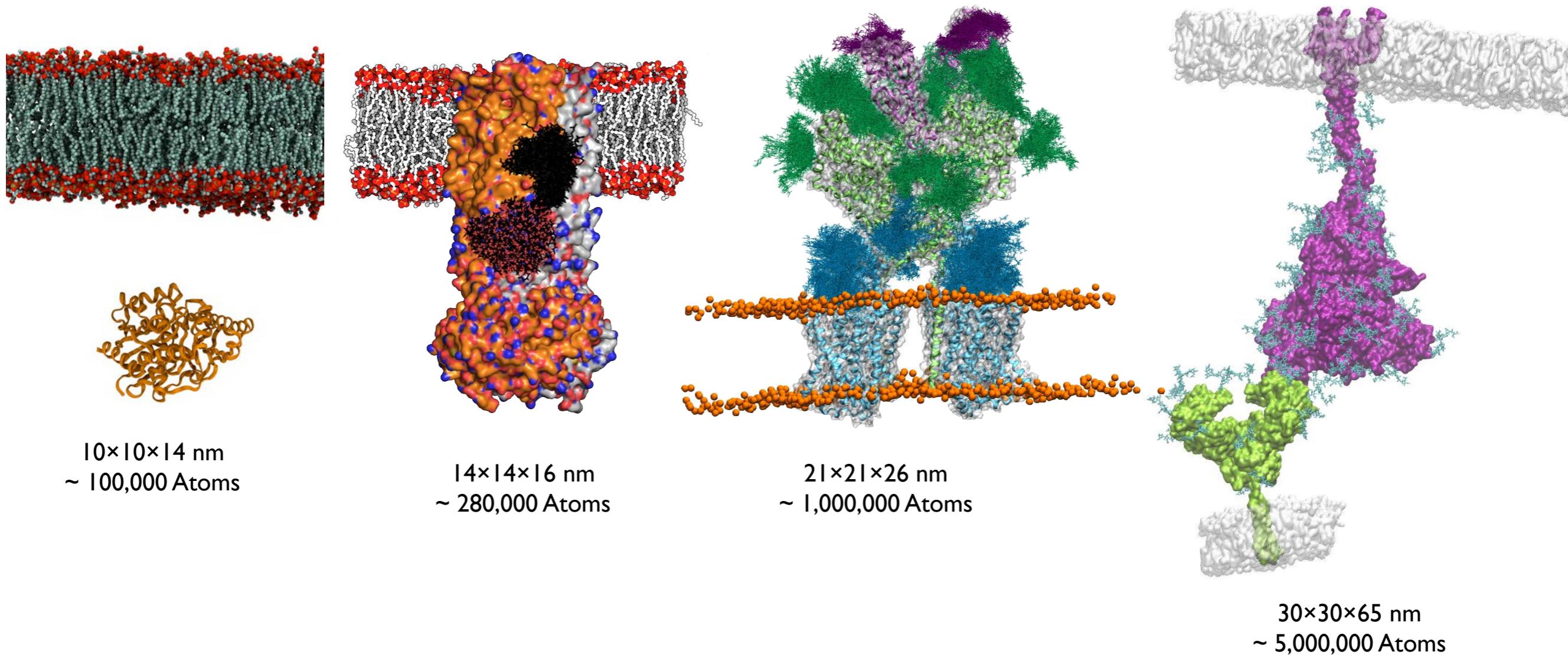
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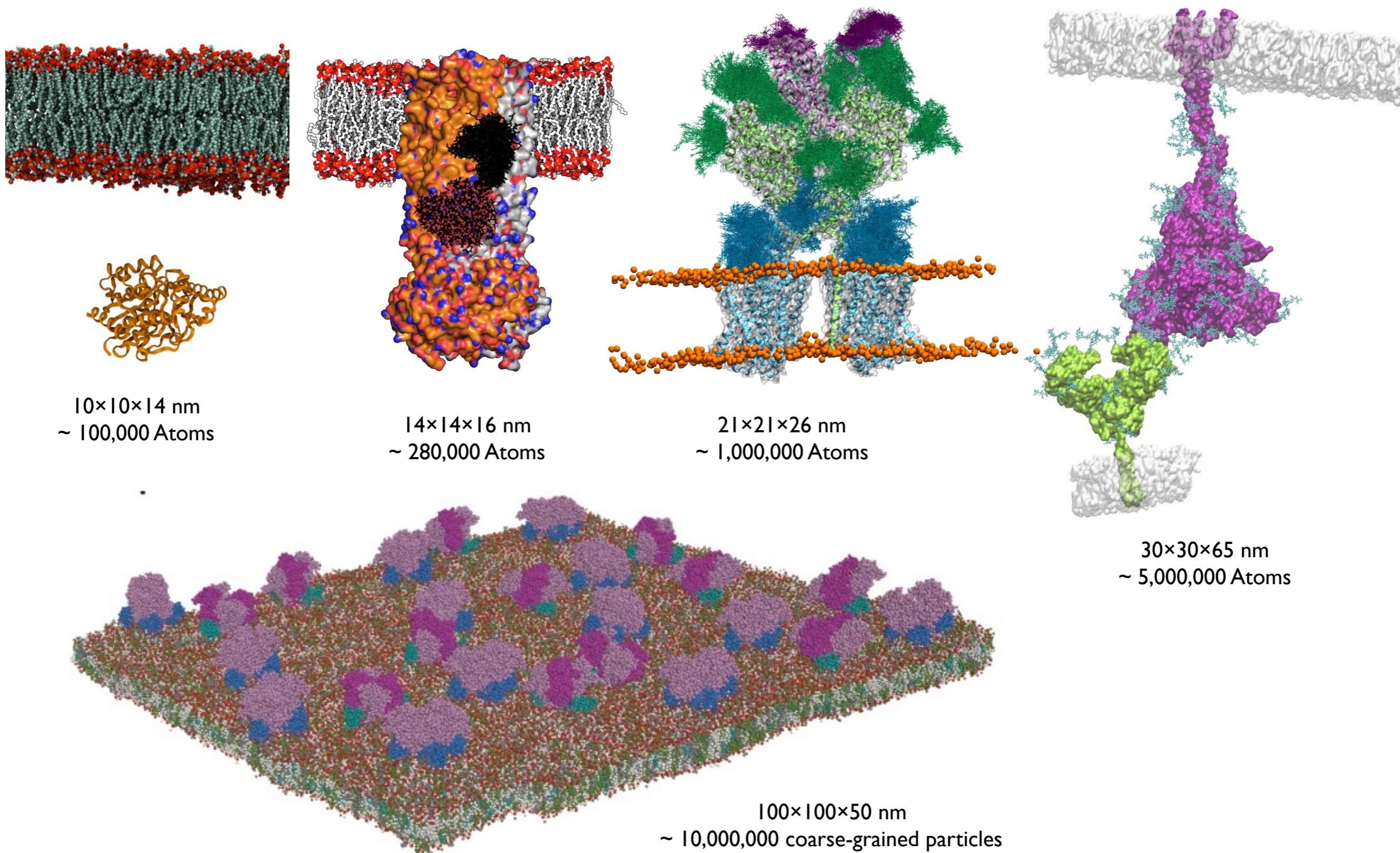


$21 \times 21 \times 26 \text{ nm}$   
 $\sim 1,000,000 \text{ Atoms}$

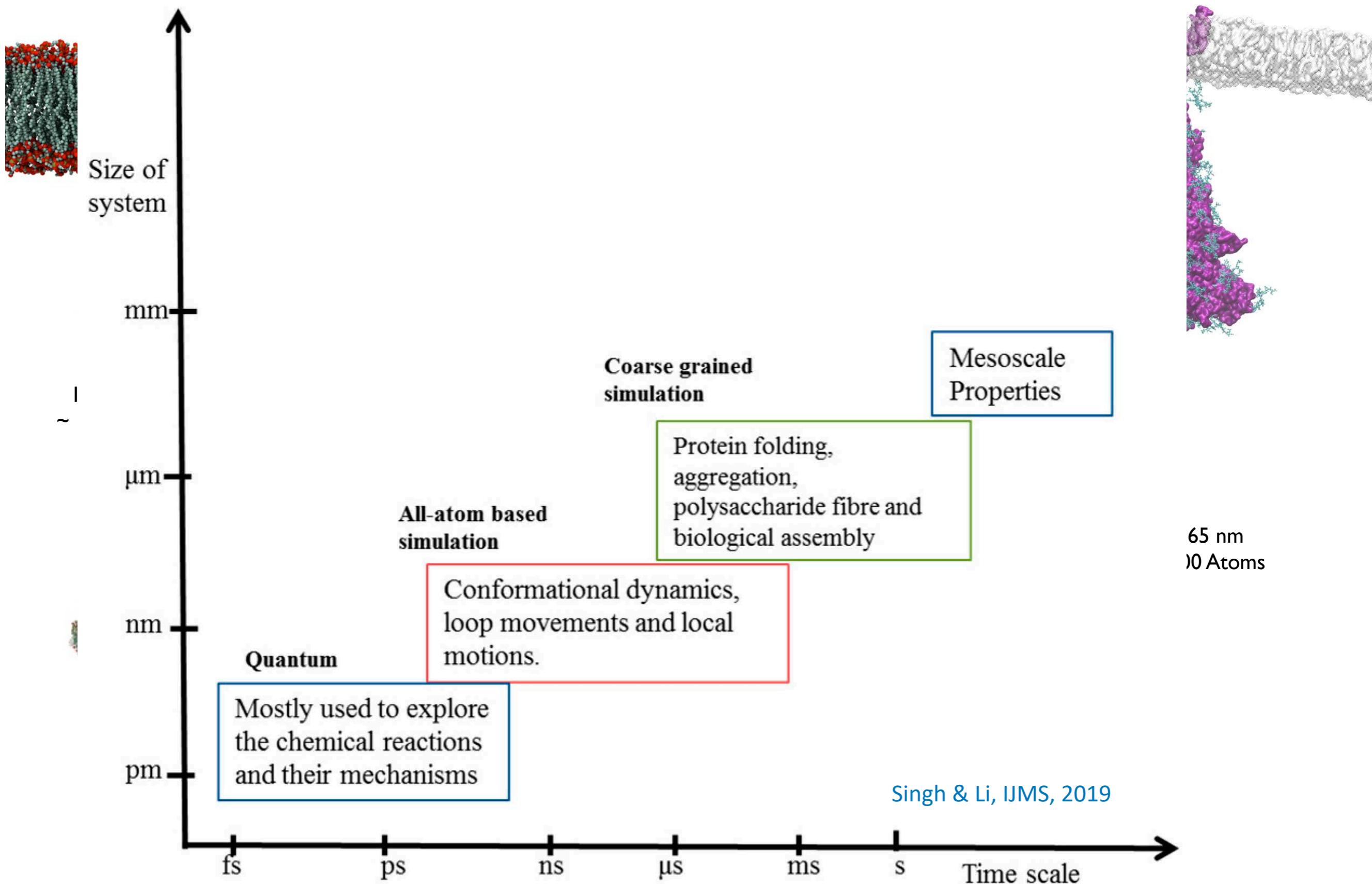
# Future: from molecular biology to cell biology



# Future: from molecular biology to cell biology



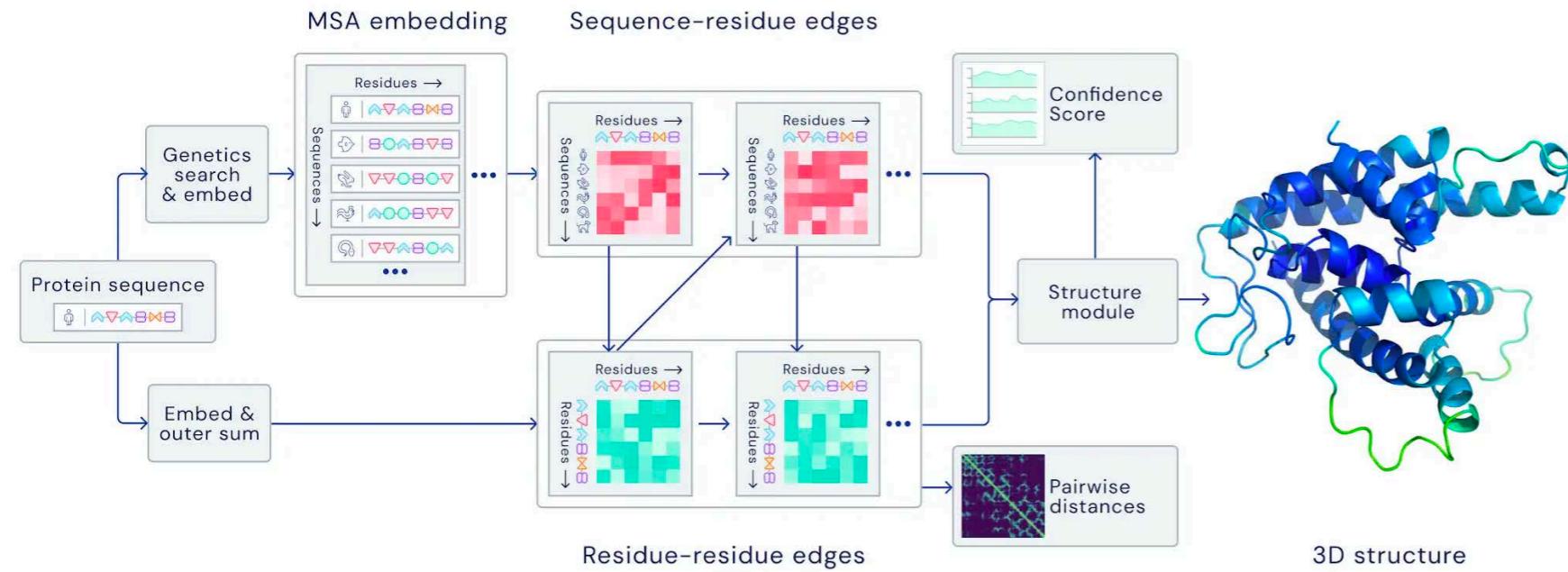
# Future: from molecular biology to cell biology



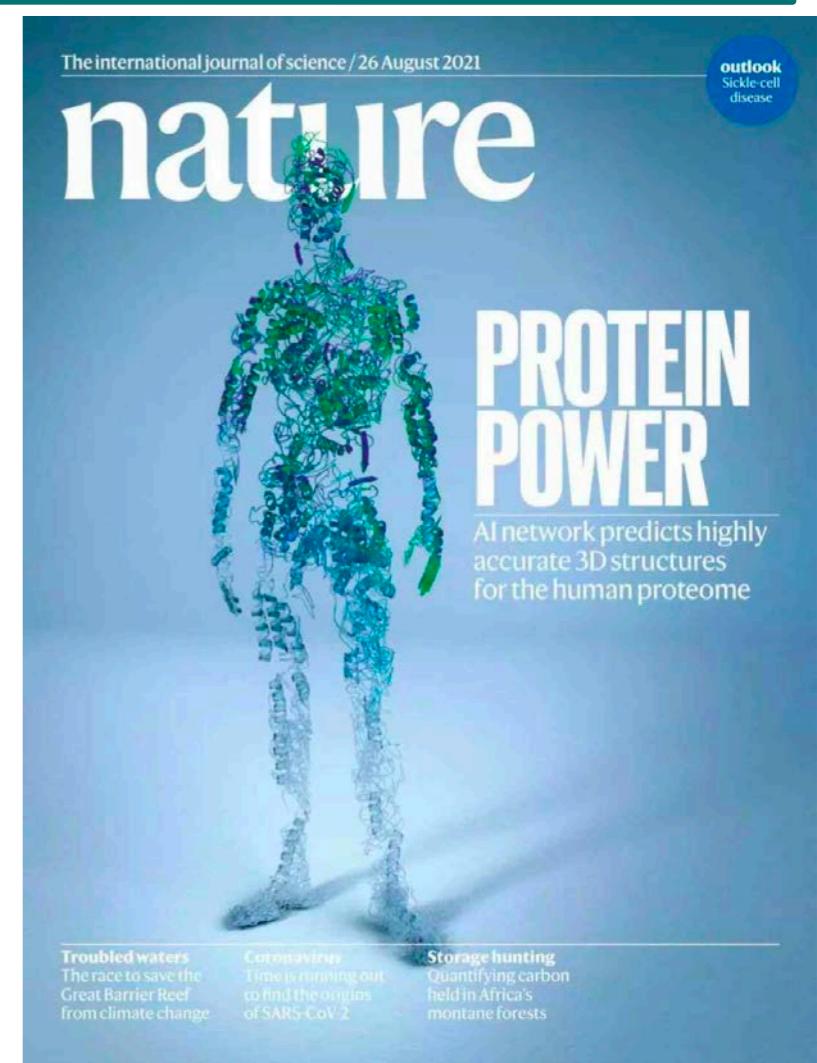
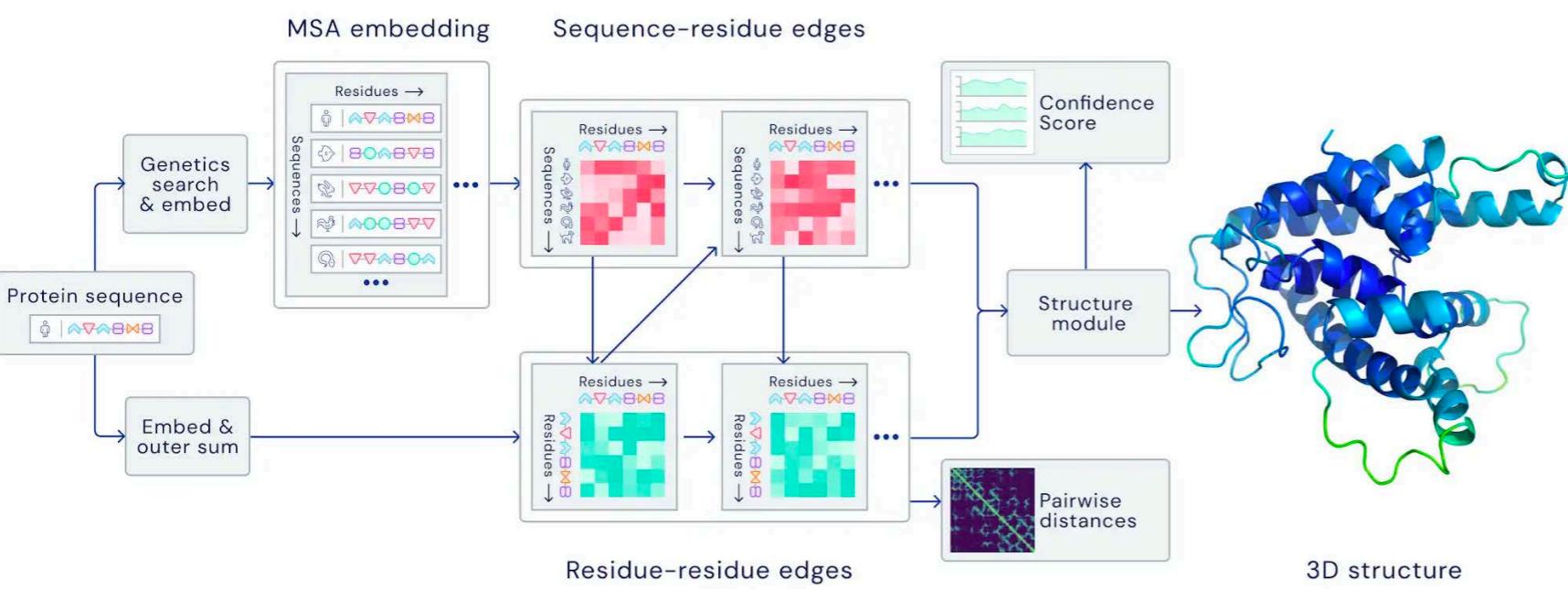
# Future: AlphaFold and beyond

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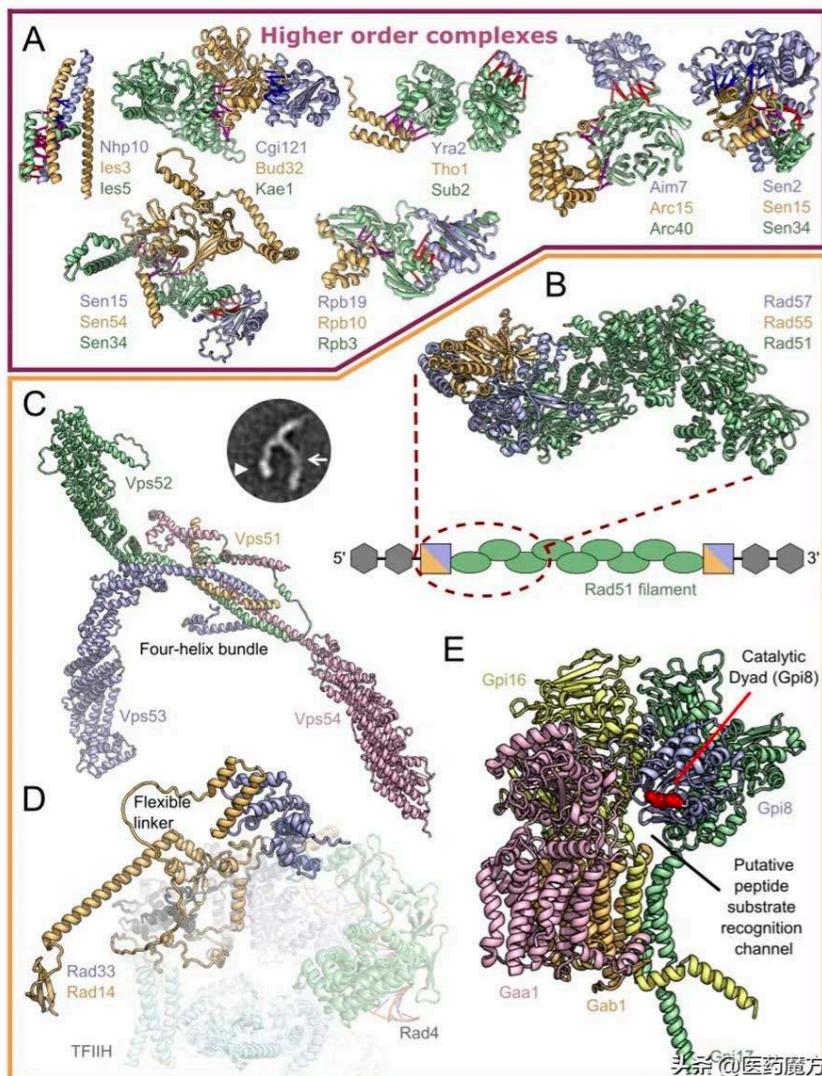
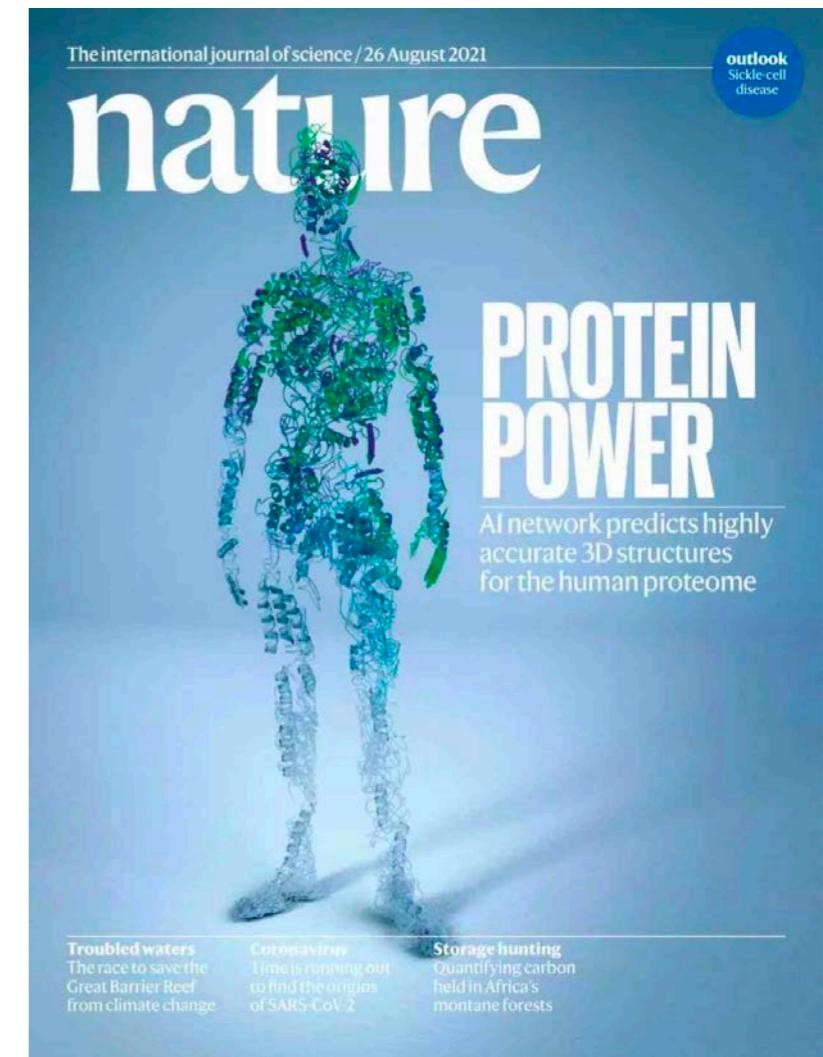
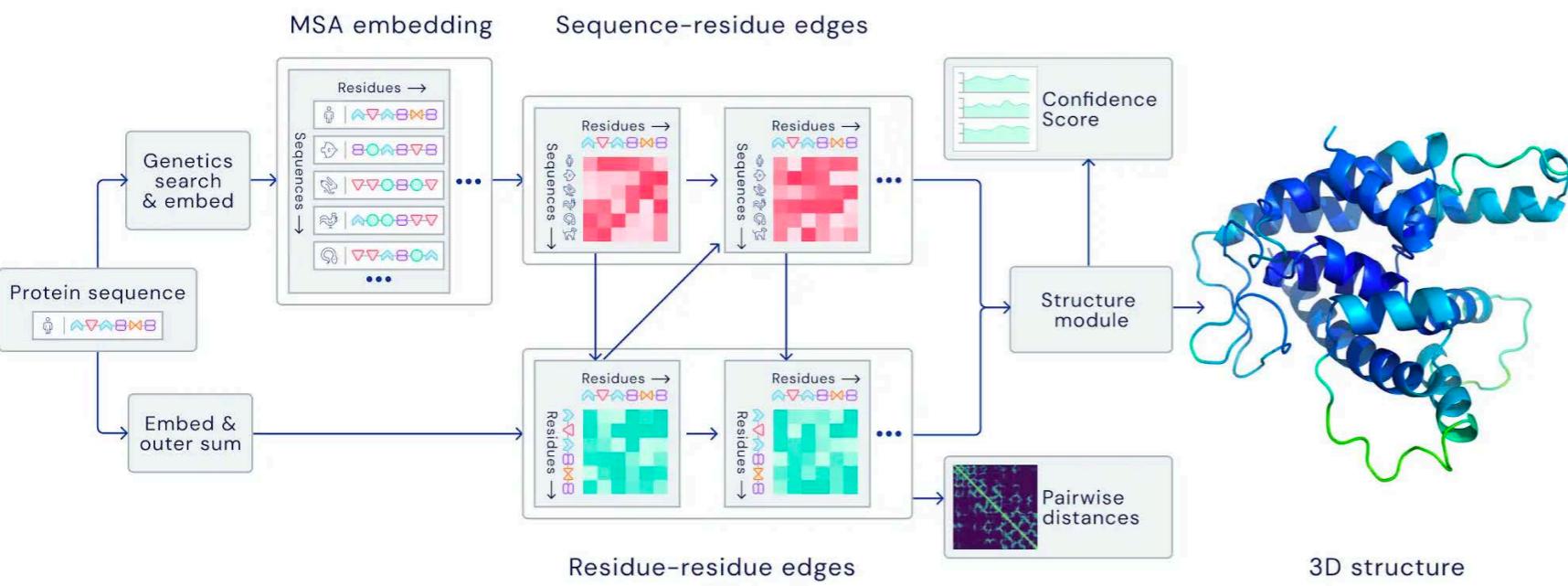
# Future: AlphaFold and beyond



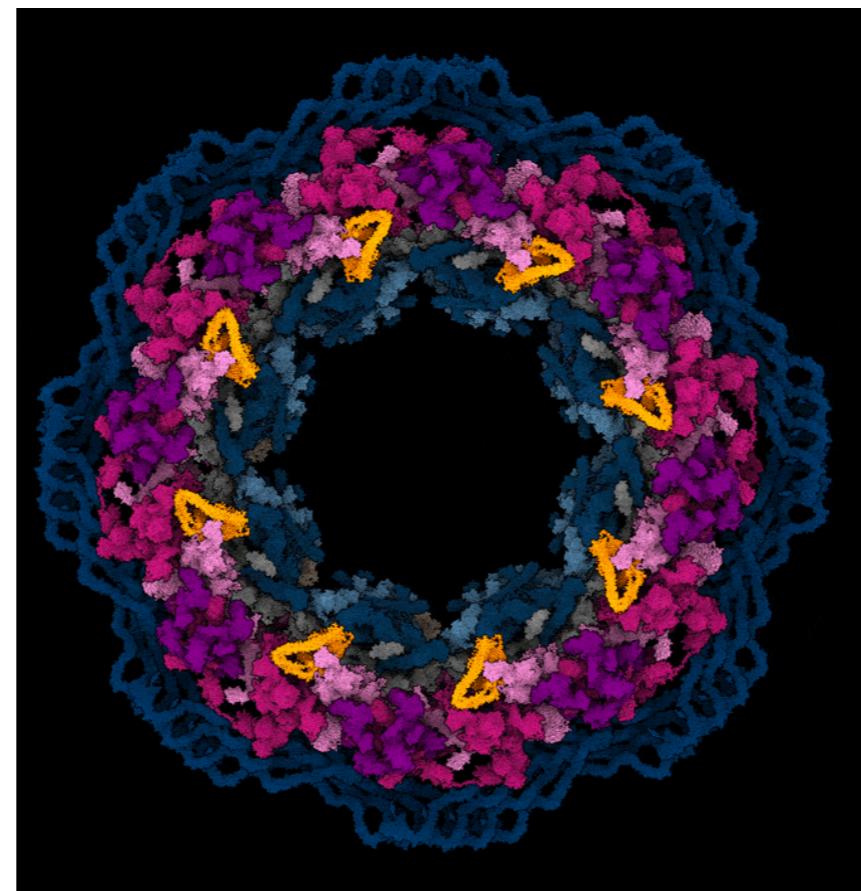
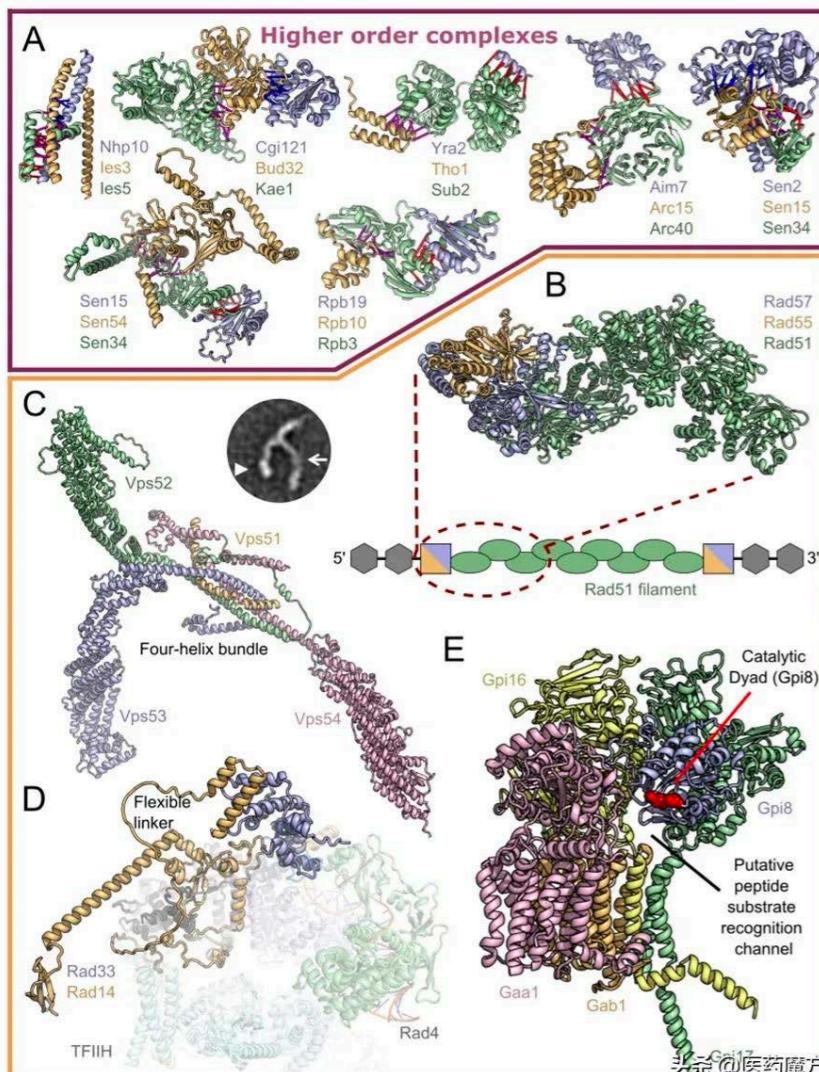
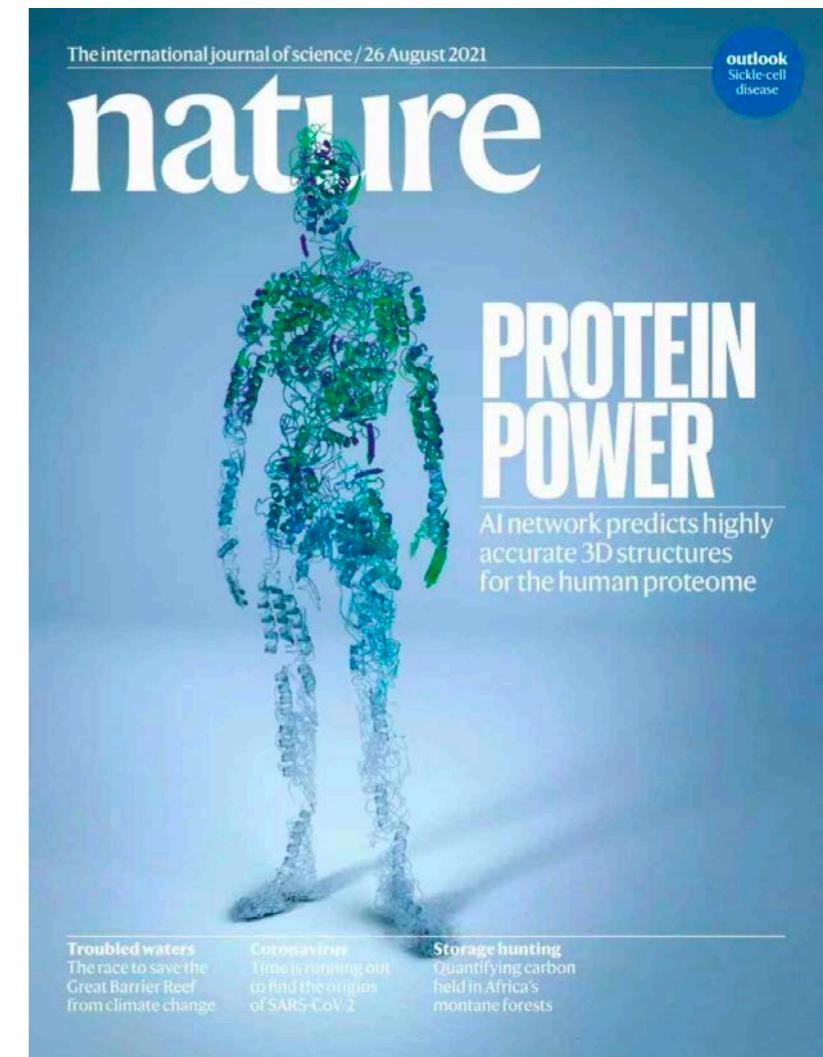
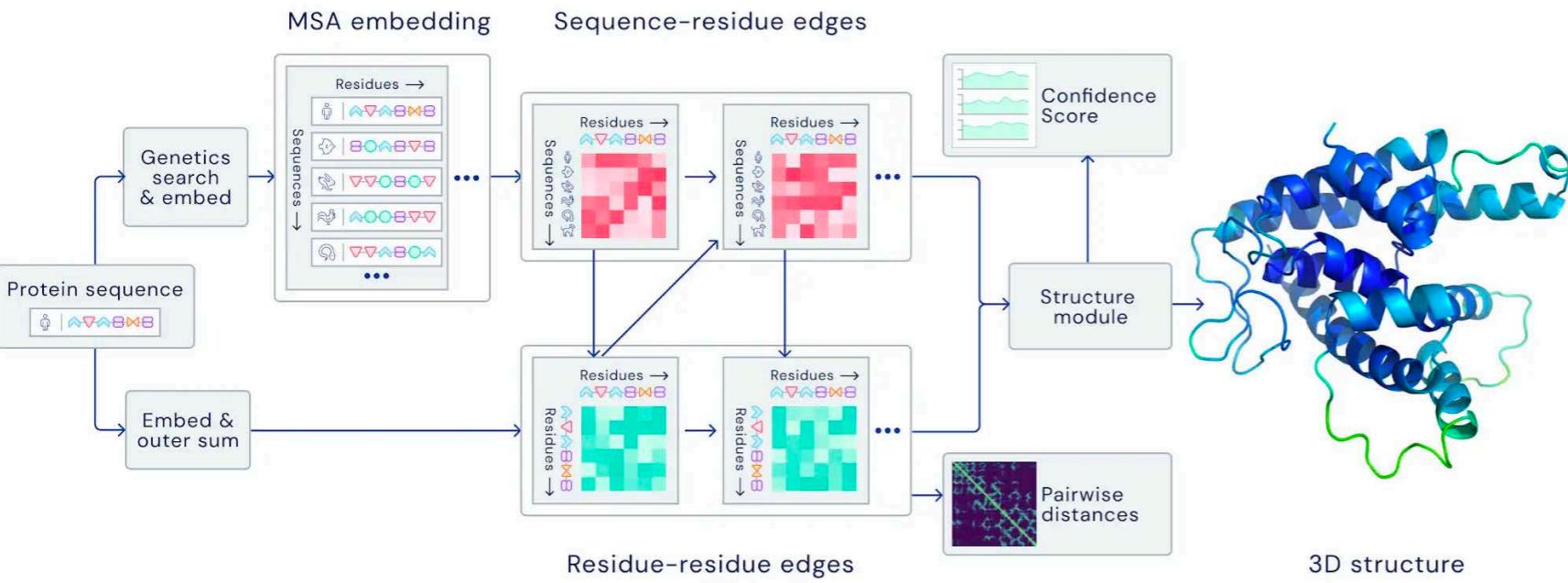
# Future: AlphaFold and beyond



# Future: AlphaFold and beyond



# Future: AlphaFold and beyond



Mosalaganti et al, bioRxiv, 2021

Ahmad Reza Mehdipour

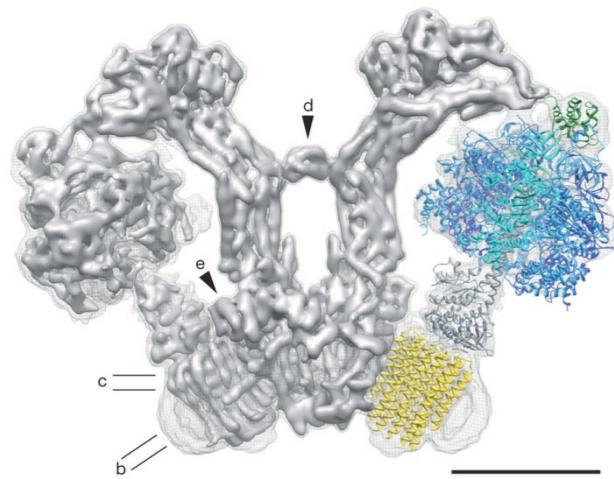
# Future: More possibilities

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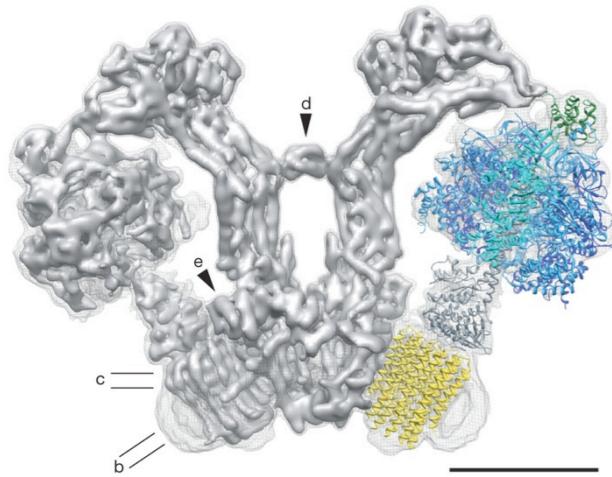
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Cryo-electron-microscopy

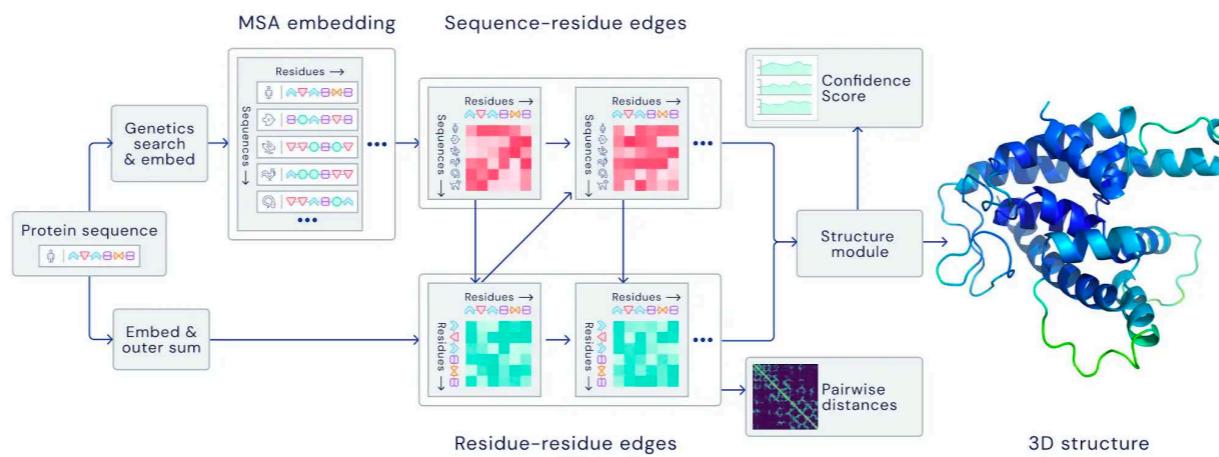


# Future: More possibilities

Cryo-electron-microscopy

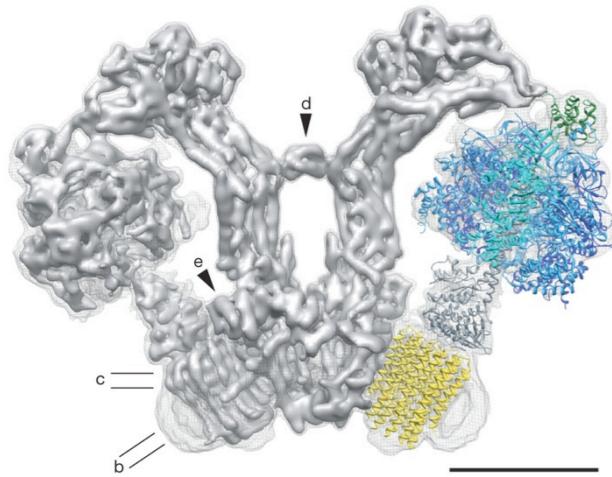


AlphaFold

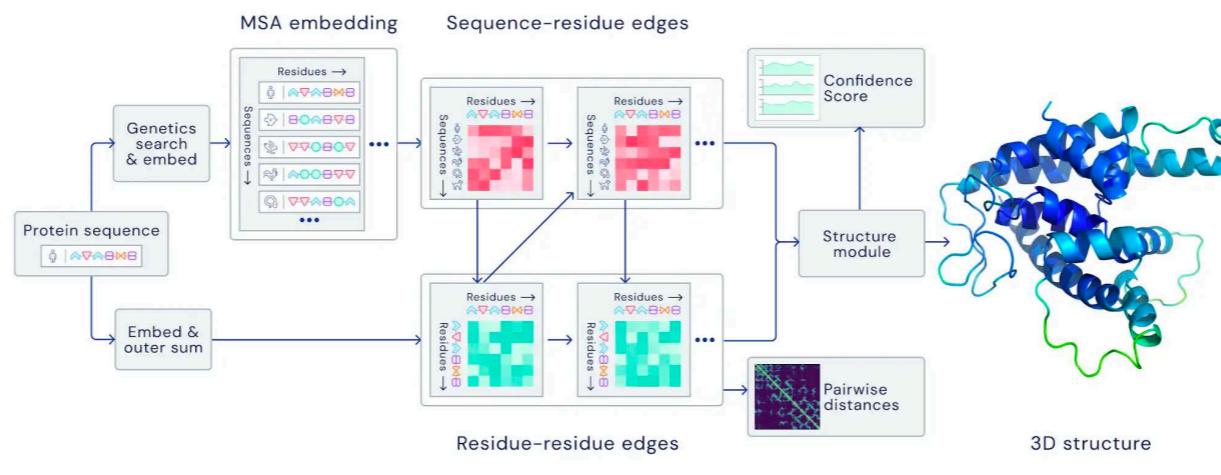


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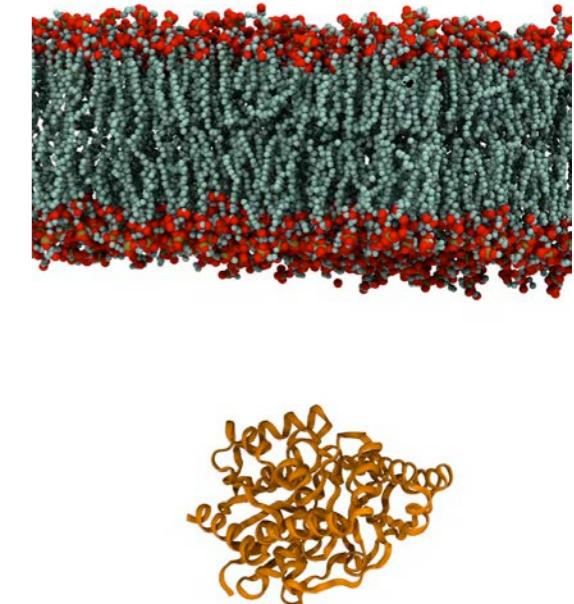
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AlphaFold

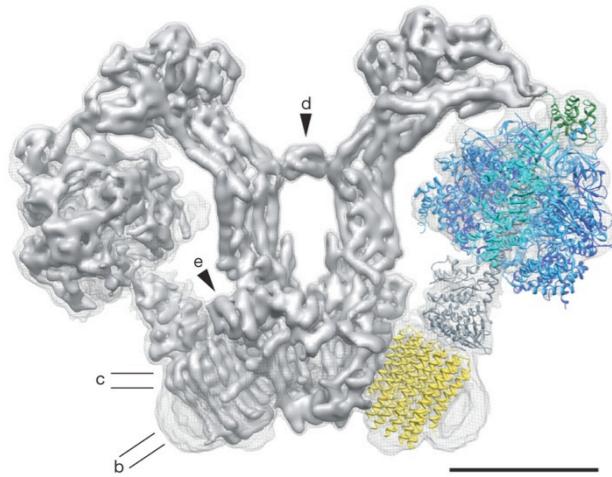


MD simulations

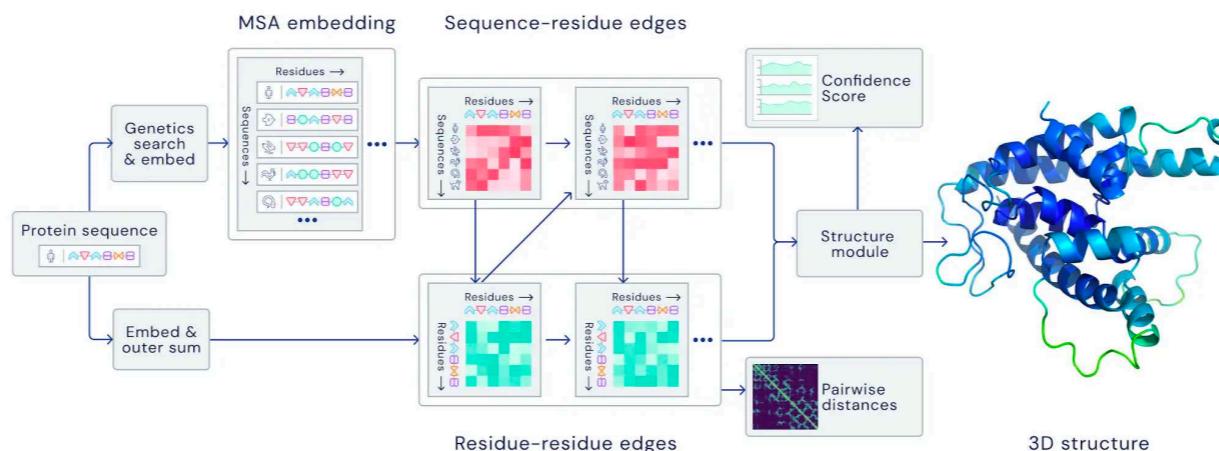


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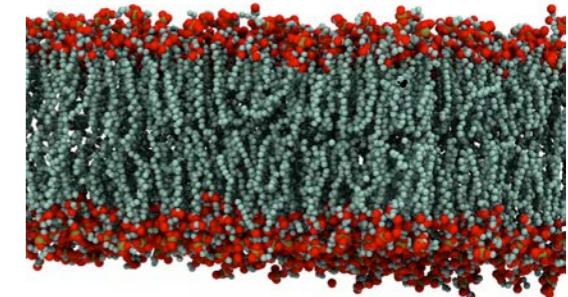
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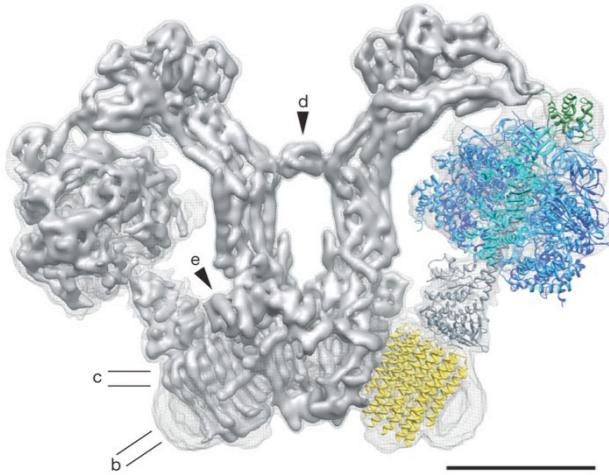


MD simulations

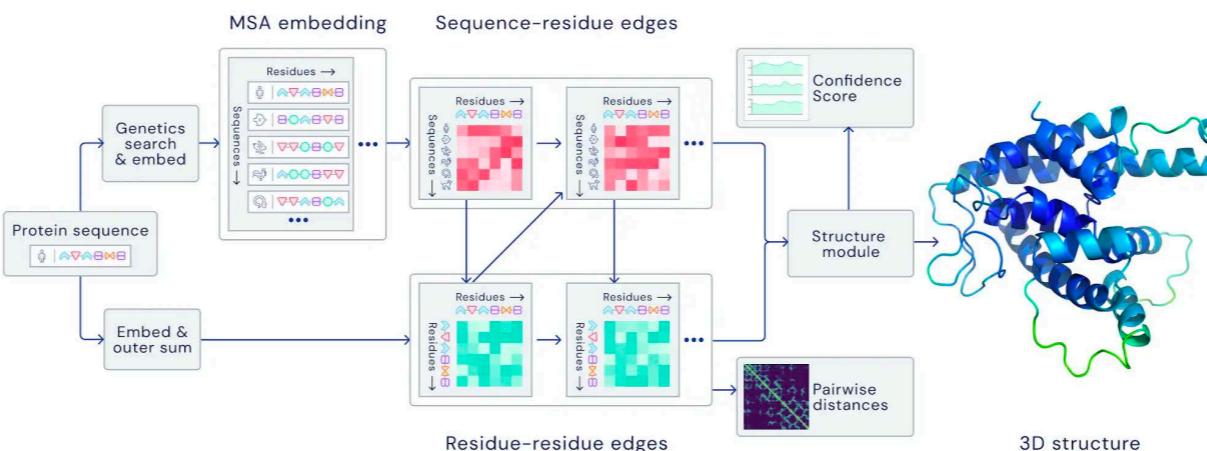


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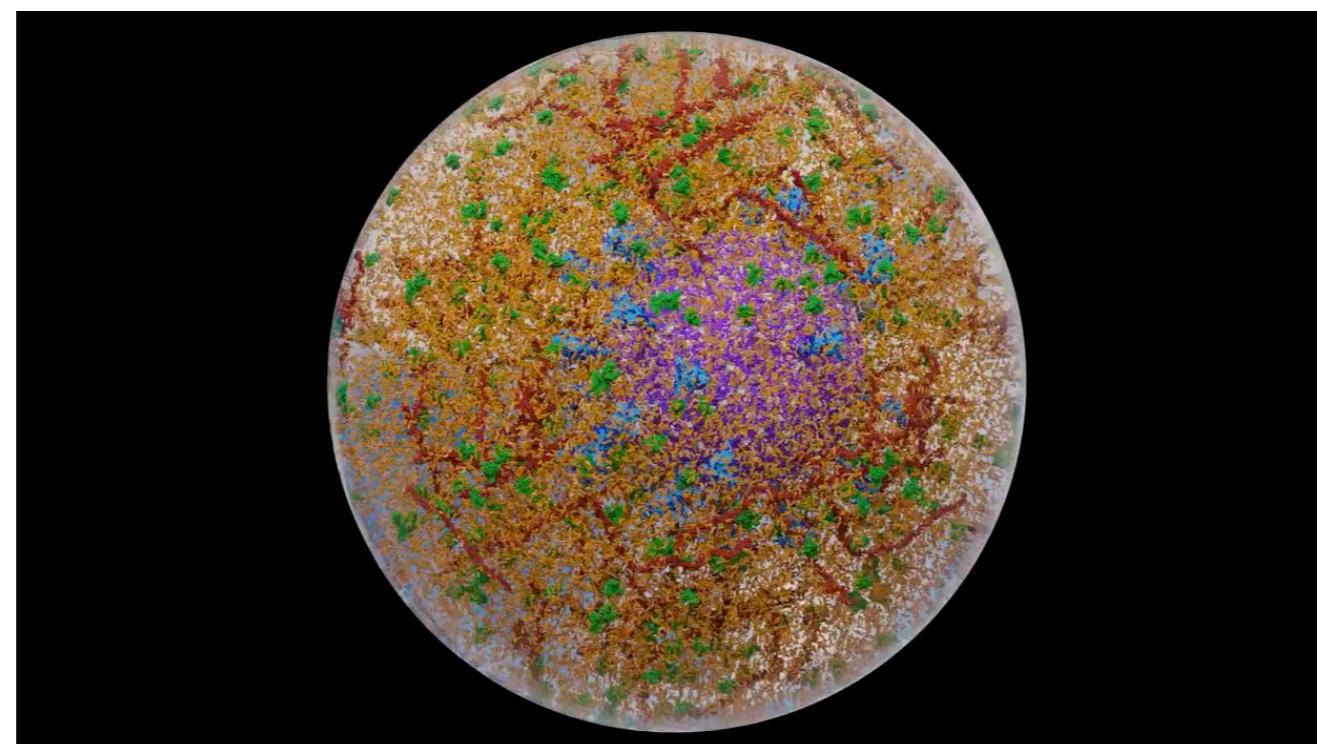
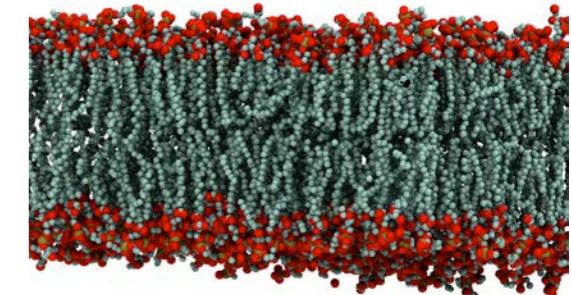
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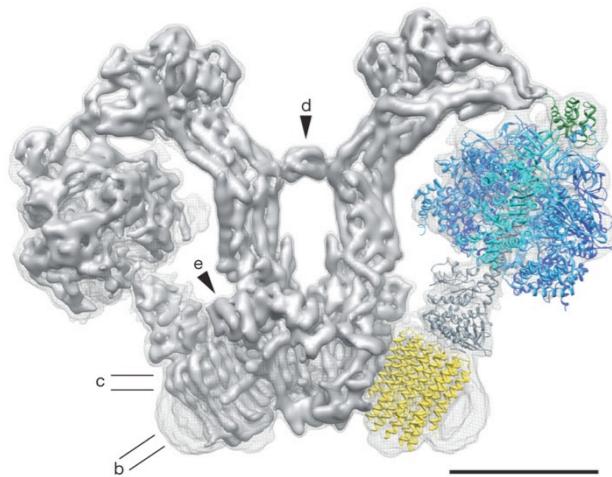


MD simulations

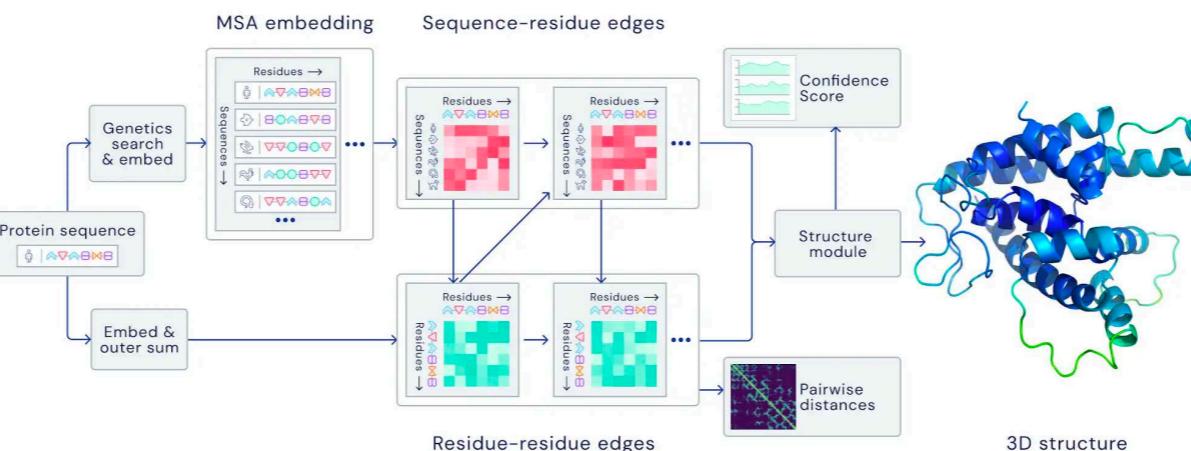


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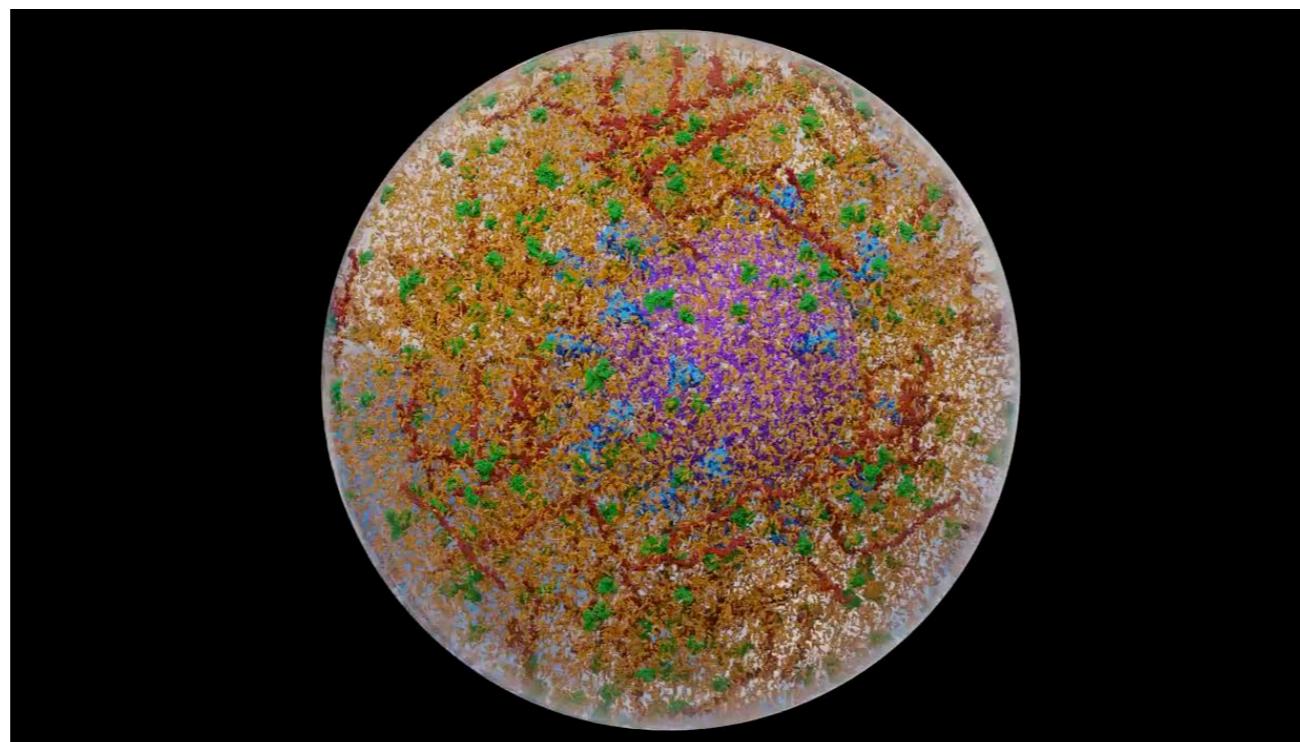
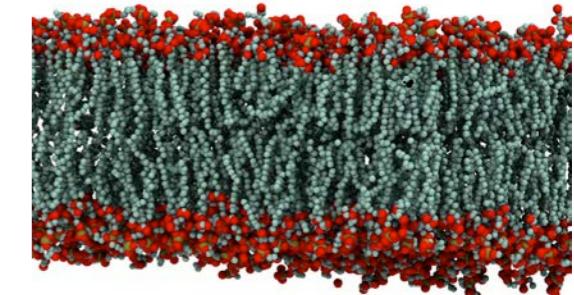
Cryo-electron-microscopy



AlphaFold



MD simulations



Simulation of an aerosol drop containing SARS-CoV2 virus

Total number of atoms: 1.3 billion atoms

Simulation time: 1  $\mu$ s

Rommie Amaro Lab, New York Times,  
2021



**Thank you!**